

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY  
SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

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**Calendar of Events**

|              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>09/15</b> | <b>State of Lake Michigan</b> |
| <b>10/03</b> | <b>Board Meeting</b>          |
| <b>TBA</b>   | <b>Forum</b>                  |

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**Dear League Members,**

It's been an unbelievable busy summer starting with a Candidate Forum for the District 6 primary in July, the Gear Up to Vote event at the end of July, Community Day in Two Rivers, the Poverty Study work, the continued Mental Health Committee, the membership notifications and brochure update, etc. So, we should be ready for a very busy fall election season.

I'm usually not thrilled by the closing days of the summer season, but this year, I am waiting with hope to cooler and less humid days of fall. I'm also looking forward to the Issue Forums that the League has planned for 2016-17. The first is scheduled for **Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Manitowoc City Hall at 7 pm when Judy Beck from the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Interleague** will update us on the status of our favorite lake.

There have been many changes in the recent laws regarding elections. The League is trying to keep you updated as soon as the legal decisions are released and interpreted. The Voter ID requirement is holding, so please do everything you can to assist neighbors and family members to verify that they have an appropriate picture ID and are registered to vote. The League can still assist with voter registration through the end of 2016. There will be a new training session for those who wish to help in this year's election.

The LWV-WI will soon be calling for Poll Observers. Please consider volunteering for this program. The statewide report that was done for the April election was entered into evidence in court proceedings regarding the election law changes, so this is important work. We will send out the training information as soon as it is available from the state.

Regards,

Jaci Collins, President LWV-MC

## **STATE OF LAKE MICHIGAN**

On **Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the Manitowoc City Hall at 7:00 pm**, Judy Beck an extremely knowledgeable member of the League of Women Voters of Lake Michigan Interleague and a retired Lake Michigan Manager for the US EPA will be presenting an overview of the State of Lake Michigan. She will cover the chemical, physical and biological resources of Lake Michigan. We are looking forward to meeting her and to listen to the update of one of our greatest resources in the Wisconsin area. This meeting is open to the public and all are welcomed. Light refreshments will be served.

We are also very pleased to have League member Beverly Rawling serving on the Board of this League. Thank you, Beverly.

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## **FORUM**

On Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the League of Women Voters held a forum for Sarah Lloyd and Michael Slattery who were the Democratic candidates vying to unseat Glen Grothman. Approximately 45 people attended and asked questions to the candidates. Comcast televised this forum and replayed it several times.

A big thank you goes to Connie Hendries, Julie Grinde, Jennifer Balma, Shelly Randerson, and the board of the League for their contributions and services.

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## **GEAR UP TO VOTE**

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin League sent the "Gear Up to Vote" van to the Manitowoc and Two Rivers Farmers' Market. This was a new venture for the State League, and it has been very successful. Every League in the Wisconsin has taken advantage of the service. The van traveled here, and will be going over the entire state, to improve awareness of the now complicated voting issues and changes.

On Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, the Farmers' Market in Manitowoc was packed with people. It is the height of the growing season, and there were many vendors selling their produce, in addition to food booths and music. We were allowed to park at the big entrance to the market, and nearly all the people entered right past the van. Jaci Collins, Cele Held, Jean Rausch, and myself, with Andrea Kaminski, and her friend, Tom, from Madison, talked to many people giving them valuable information about voter ID, voter registration, polling places, and reminding them to vote in the primary on August 9<sup>th</sup>, as well as the general election in November.

The van went on to the Farmers' Market in Two Rivers. Even though, Two Rivers doesn't have the numbers that Manitowoc projects, Connie Hendries, Jaci Collins, Cathy Cole, along with Andrea and her friend, Tom, continued to greet and meet people to reminded them to register to vote, informed them about the new voter regulations, and encouraged all to vote in the primary and the national election.

It also gave the League of Women Voters a lot of publicity, as the van was painted boldly with the logo. It was a highly successful venture in this election year.

A special thank you goes to Anita Rappe for coordinating this project.

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## **COMMUNITY DAY**

On Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, Two Rivers celebrates Community Days. Since Two Rivers does not allow organizations to promote their activities in the community at Apple Fest or Ethnic Days, this event allows every organization or programs to present information on the services available in this community. The League has been part of Community Days for a very long time. We promote voting information, voting registration when possible, polling information, reminding all citizens to vote and membership applications. We answered a variety of questions and distributed the flyers on Voter ID requirements.

This is just another way that we are out in the community to do a service.

Thank you to Jaci Collins and Cathy Cole for supporting this event.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

To date more than half of you have responded to the renewal of your membership. I do appreciate having so many renewals before September 1<sup>st</sup>. However, I hope that the rest of you will respond soon. The sooner that I receive the information, the sooner I can prepare a new phone tree, membership list and an interest list for the various committees. When you send in your dues, please take a look at the Committee Interest sheet. The Board is always looking to include non-board members on committees and projects, so please consider getting involved. Some of these Committees only meet once or twice during the year. All of you are important for the vitality and reputation of the League. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Catherine L. Cole, Membership Chairman

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

The League has arranged to have Jennifer Hudon conduct classes to **all** members who are interested in registering voters until Election Day, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This is open to those of you who want to brush up on the rules as well as members who wish to become newly certified registrants. The meetings will take place on **Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** at the **Manitowoc City Hall at either 10:00 am and at 2:30 pm**. The meeting will last approximately 45 minutes depending on the questions that may be asked. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Cole at 553-8757.

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**UPDATE ON POVERTY STUDY**

A year ago at our Annual Meeting, the members of the League adopted a two year study, "Poverty in Our Midst: How it Affects Families in Manitowoc County and Our Community" (2015-2017). This study committee formed 4 sub-committees: Economic Factors, Food, Housing, and Health Care and has been working on gathering information on these 4 topics. We have a tentative time line of a first draft in October and the Final Report ready for the Annual Meeting in May, 2017. This would give our members the summer to read the report and then we would have consensus meetings in September. At each turn of information, we locate more information and that brings more information. At times, it seems endless, but we have a dedicated group of people working on this important topic. I have listed the members of the committee. Anyone is welcome to join one of the sub-committees. We still have information that needs to be gathered. Please contact Julie Grinde at 682-6747.

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|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Julie Grinde, Chairman | Jaci Collins   | Nancy Slattery |
| Darlene Wellner        | Nancy Lodl     | Jean Biegun    |
| Ann Larson             | Linda Gratz    | Cecelia Held   |
| Theresa Collins        | Sue Matczynski |                |

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