

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
JAUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER**

Calendar of Events

01/19	Housing Issues in Manitowoc County
02/06	Great Decisions: European Union
02/07	Board Meeting at 4:00 pm
02/09	Candidates Forum
02/13	Great Decisions: Trade Policy
02/20	Great Decisions: South China Sea
02/21	Primary Election
02/23	Children's Mental Health Forum
02/27	Saudi Arabia

Dear League Members,

A big thank you goes to Julie and George Grinde for hosting our annual Holiday Party. We had a lot of fun at this party and enjoyed relaxing and visiting with all the members who attended. We want to thank all the members who brought food to share at the party. It is a joy to sample all the treats and to recognize what good cooks we have in our group. Julie would like to thank Jaci and League members for the poinsettia plant.

The New Year starts with so many issue forums to attend to chase the winter blues away. All meetings will be held at Manitowoc City Hall at 7:00 pm. Each issue is highlighted in the rest of the newsletter so that you have some knowledge of what each one contains. The Great Decisions series begins its tenth season on February 6th at 6:00 pm in the Balkansky Room of the Manitowoc Public Library.

We hope to see all of you at some of these programs.

Cathy Cole

HOUSING ISSUES: The Impact of Housing on Family Stability in Manitowoc County

The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at the Manitowoc City Hall. There will be a panel that will be answering some questions prepared by the League. It will then be opened up to the audience for questions. Comcast will be there and the Herald Times Reporter will be present to record this meeting.

Light refreshments will be served.

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE POVERTY STUDY

At the Annual Meeting in 2015, our League voted to do a two year local study on Poverty in Manitowoc County. We broke our committee into 4 sub-committees: Economic Factors, Food, Housing, and Health Care. Each sub-committee has been collecting information in their area and there has been no shortage of information. Local people have been interviewed to gather the county information and places in the community such as clinics and food pantries have been visited. Maureen Crowley has met once with the committee members to help them with the format and style of writing for the publication.

Last year, this committee had Terri Zuege-Halversen provided a program “Hunger and Poverty in Manitowoc County” which gave us an overview of poverty in the county. In January, we will have a program on housing challenges for our community. We have 8 people on our committee and many other League members who have expressed an interest in the progress of this study.

Thank you to the members of the committee for their diligent commitment to working on this project. We will keep everyone updated as we move toward the completion of this study. If you wish to join the committee, contact Julie at 682-6747.

Julie Grinde, Chairman

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions begins **Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Manitowoc Public Library at 6:00 pm**. The series is sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association and is free to the public. No registration is required. Great Decisions 2017 briefing books offer background information for the entire series. They are available at the Manitowoc Public Library Service Desk for \$10. A portion of the book is paid for courtesy of the Manitowoc Public Library Foundation. You need not purchase the book to participate in the series.

This is the tenth year that the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County, Manitowoc Public Library Foundation, Friends of Manitowoc Public Library, Lakeshore Peacemakers, Pax Christi, University of Wisconsin—Manitowoc, Silver Lake College, and the Manitowoc Public Library have sponsored this event. We have had over one hundred people attend this series. Please join us for lively and interesting conversations on a variety of topics.

As always, the League provides dinner to our guest at 4:30 at the Courthouse Pub. All League members are welcome to attend to meet and greet some old friends who have participated in this series and new. Dinners are not too expensive if you order wisely. If you plan to attend, please contact Marilyn Sontag at 682-8988.

A big thank you goes to Marilyn Sontag and Darlene Wellner for getting the speakers.

FORUM

The League will be holding a candidates forum prior to the primary election. The Forum is set for Thursday, February 9th at 7 pm. It will be held at the Manitowoc City Hall on that Thursday evening. There are three candidates running for Judge of Court, Branch Three: Attorneys Pat Koppa, Bob Dewane, and Donald Chewning. There are also three candidates running for Manitowoc City Council, District 7: Austin Mielizarek, Peter Adams and Todd Lotz. The primary election is Tuesday, February 21st. The three candidates running for City Council will be

given a chance to introduce themselves and to state their positions at the very beginning of the forum. The candidates running for Judge of Court, Branch Three will be given the opportunity to state their positions and answer questions from the audience as well as prepared questions from the League. This forum is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

Our League's mental health committee is planning a panel discussion on children's mental health in Manitowoc County. The event will take place on **Thursday, February 23, at 7 pm at Manitowoc City Hall.**

In the Mental Health Committee's 2013 study, it was noted that children were an underserved population in the county when it comes to mental health services. We have invited a panel of professionals from several disciplines to update the public on current trends and initiatives in this area as well as to note areas of concern.

Serving on the panel will be Dr. Maureen Crowley, psychology professor at UW Manitowoc, Stacy Ledvina, Youth Services Supervisor at Manitowoc County Human Services Department and Linda Luedtke, Guidance Counselor at Two Rivers High School. We are in the process of adding a treatment provider who works with children to the panel.

In addition to the panel presentation, members of the mental health committee will provide a handout and overview of progress on the recommendations from their original study.

There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion from the audience after the panel presents their information.

The event is free, open to the public and refreshments will be available.

Hope to see many League members there for this informative program!

FUND DRIVE

Our fund drive is about to begin. As many League members are aware, our contributions have been dwindling. We are trying to raise funds to support the expenses for speakers, issue programs, studies, and other items that occur during the course of the fiscal year. The League has kept the membership dues down even though the State and Federal have raised them. We have been lucky that so many League members support our efforts and do contribute to the League. However, we need to reach outside of the League to enrich our treasury. If any of you could suggest an organization that supports our League, please contact any member of the board or Cathy Cole at 553-8757.

Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

If any of you are interested in working with board members on the nomination committee, April 's Arbor Day Committee, May Banquet, finance committee or any other committee, please contact Cathy Cole at 553-8757 and the information will be passed on to the chairman of the various committees.

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter and supporting the League by attending the various issues programs that we have planned for you throughout the year.