

**MANITOWOC COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/15/13	State Budget Public Hearings & Input Session
4/20/13	Earth Day at JFK Gymnasium
5/02/13	Town Hall Meeting/Substance Abuse Prevention
5/06/13	Board Meeting
5/15/13	May Annual Meeting
6/08/13	LWVWI 2013 Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI

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Dear League Members,

The League has recently been presented with a certificate from the National Level for growing our membership by over 15% in 2012. This is due to the dedication of our Board to provide quality programming throughout the year. Since we try to educate and inform the public on various issues, we have gained the respect in our community that promotes an interest to belong to our organization. I am very grateful to all of you for your input in helping the Board decide what would be of interest to the community.

Mary Wallace and Linda Gratz, Co-Chairman of the Mental Health Study have been invited to present at the State Annual Meeting. They will talk about the process of conducting a Local Study on Saturday, June 8th at 1:30 pm. The Mental Health Study took almost three years to complete. It is in the process of being printed. I have attached the final Positions Paper and Recommendations for all to view.

Forums and Elections are finally over!! Great Decisions has come to an end for another successful year! Since the robins and red wing black birds have returned to our area, I think it is safe to assume that spring is just around the corner – just not here!! However, our minds start drifting to planning celebrations at the end of a school year. Our next program, on May 2, will be very timely with the many proms and graduation parties that will be happening in May and June. There will be more information in the rest of the Newsletter.

I hope all of you will take the time to read through the Newsletter as it contains a lot of information on the April and May events.

Sincerely,

Cathy

SENATOR JOE LEIBHAM ANNOUNCES STATE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS AND 9TH SENATE DISTRICT BUDGET INPUT SESSION

Senator Joe Leibham will be hosting a set of State budget Constituent Input Sessions for residents of the 9th senate district in Plymouth, Chilton, Sheboygan, Kiel, Oostburg, and Manitowoc. The sessions are offered at varying times of the day, on weekdays and weekends. He has already presided over three meetings already in Plymouth, Chilton, and Sheboygan. On Saturday, April 13 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am he will be at Kiel City Hall (Council Chambers) 621 Sixth Street and at the Oostburg Public Library 213 N. 8th Street, Oostberg at 11:00 am to Noon. **On Monday, April 15, 2013 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, he will be at the University of Wisconsin Manitowoc (County Board Room) 705 Viebahn Street.**

Participants will be recognized to speak on a first come first speak basis and individuals attending are asked to keep their initial comments to 3 minutes – additional time will be offered if time allows.

I put in the other locations for your information. There may be some of you who cannot make the Manitowoc meeting, but would like to be aware of what is in the budget. I hope that you will be able to attend one of these sessions.

EARTH DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

On Saturday, April 20th, the League of Women Voters will be present at the Earth Day Event that will be held at the **Manitowoc High School JFK Gymnasium** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There will be many activities for the whole family. We will be there to have petitions to sign and to promote our organization.

THURSDAY, MAY 2ND

On Thursday, May 2, the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a Town Hall Meeting at the Manitowoc City Hall at 7:00 pm on Substance Abuse Prevention. Annie Short, a member of the Substance Abuse/Prevention Coalition and Crime Prevention Committee will outline the drug problem in our area.

A Metro Drug Officer will then speak for about thirty minutes about the increasing use of serious drugs, the impact on the abusers and their families and the impact on our local institutions and economy.

This will be followed by a panel of officials and citizens who will describe drug and alcohol use in the community from their perspective. These participants will be asked to

limit their comments to about 5-7 minutes so there is adequate time for the public to respond. The following people will be on the panel:

- Someone from the Coroner's Office
- A pharmacist or a HFMH Addiction Specialist
- A parent
- A person who has struggled with addiction and is recovering

Ultimately, we hope to leave with some action plan to reduce the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol in our community.

Light refreshments will be served. See you there!!

ANNUAL MAY MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at the Holiday Inn. The meal will cost \$12.00 and reservations should be made by Friday, May 10th. Please call Marilyn Sontag at 682-8988 or e-mail her at sontagcr@sbcglobal.net.

There will be a short meeting after our program. During this meeting, we will be voting on raising our dues to \$50.00 per year for individuals and \$75 for family. This is the first raise in over forty years since we have been in existence. At the present time, the National and State Leagues dues are \$60.00 per person and \$90.00 per couple. The Manitowoc League makes up the difference. We are asking all members to stay so that we have a quorum and can pass this important policy change. Of course, we will still have our scholarship policy that states that anyone who needs financial help to become a member can receive it with board approval

GREAT DECISIONS

What a successful event!! This has to have been one of our best seasons to date!! We had an audience of over 100 at each session. The speakers were very informative and gave us a lot to think about. Our reputation is growing leaps and bounds and I for one cannot wait for next year.

Congratulations to Rachel Muchin Young, and her Committee for a wonderful series.

FORUMS

Thanks to everyone who helped with the March 21st Manitowoc Mayoral and School Board forum. Jennifer did a great job filling in for Julie Grinde as timekeeper. Cathy is becoming an experienced video taper. Many people brought refreshments and helped set up and clean up, and others helped with organization. It went very smoothly. I think we're getting the hang of this!! Thanks, again. Connie Hendries

NOMINATIONS FOR 2013-14

The nomination committee presents the following slate of Officers and Directors for 2013-14:

OFFICERS:

President: Cathy Cole	2013-14
Vice President: Shelly Randerson	2013-14
Secretary: Julie Grinde	2013-15
Treasurer: Patricia Dodge	2012-14

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Joan Kaeiser	2013-15
Anita Rappe	2013-15
Marilyn Sontag	2013-15
Mary Wallace	2013-15
Darlene Wellner	2013-15
Jennifer Balma	2012-14
Linda Gratz	2012-14
Connie Hendries	2012-14
Nancy Slattery	2012-14

APPOINTED DIRECTORS (ONE YEAR TERM)

Jacquelynn Collins	2013-14
Rachel Muchin Young	2013-14

The slate will be presented at the Annual May Meeting. If there is anyone who would like to be on the board or serve as an officer, please contact Anita Rappe at erappe@powercom.net or phone at 682-9597.
