

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

04/25	Earth Day at the YMCA from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm
05/05	Board Meeting
05/06	Stigma: You're WISE if you lose it!
05/13	MOVE TO AMEND
05/14	LWVMC ANNUAL MEETING

Dear League Members,

Greetings to you and thank you for being part of a wonderful group of people engaged in making Manitowoc County a better place to live. We, at the Manitowoc County League of Women voters, have spent this past year working hard to keep the Manitowoc County citizens informed and engaged.

We started our year in the fall on September 18th with our Kick-off event with a speaker who gave us valuable information on the new elections laws. The program was on Comcast, so it could be viewed on TV that same evening, and also broadcast several times during the following week. Several League members took the instruction and registered voters at schools and community events.

On October 9th, a program was presented at City Hall, again on Comcast, on the School Referendum, which was to be on the November election ballot. The program was excellent, and there was a large attendance, with questions fielded from the audience. On October 28th, we presented a "Meet and Greet the Candidates," again at City Hall, with Comcast recording the program. Three of the five candidates running for office were present and it was a wonderful informational event.

In December, we had a wonderful Christmas party, held at the beautiful Grinde home, for all League members. In addition to a wonderful buffet, wine and soft drinks abounded. We started the year of 2015 with a program about the "Move to Amend" effort. A speaker from Madison spoke at the Senior Center in the afternoon and at City Hall in the evening. There was excellent attendance at both sessions and a lot of community interest. There will be a group forming in Manitowoc County to try to get the movement organized here.

Of course, the Great Decisions series started in February and continued through March. There were eight sessions, with excellent speakers each Monday evening for eight weeks. This was the eighth year presenting the series, and it has increased in attendance each year. This is a great community event!!

April heralds spring, and this year, the League is a co-sponsor of the Earth Day event. This year it will take place at the YMCA, in conjunction with the 2015 Healthy Kids Day.

May is the month of our Annual Meeting. This year it is on May 14th. It will take place at the Holiday Inn. Social hour is at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm, with program, speaker, and meeting to follow. Our speaker this year will be Jennifer Kern, Regional director of the Working Families Organization. There will be a choice of meals this year to please every palate. Dessert is included.

As you can see, we have had a VERY full year. Our annual planning session will be sometime this summer, and we plan to have an exciting year for you next year. Please do your part to make this coming year a successful one.

Respectfully,

Anita Rappe, President

EARTH DAY – APRIL 25TH

The **2015 Earth Day Event** will be held in conjunction with **the YMCA 2015 Healthy Kids Day**. Both events have decided to work together on a common theme since a healthy lifestyle and healthy environment go hand in hand. This event will begin **at 10:00 am until 2:00 pm**. There will be many educational booths, children’s activities, music performed throughout the day, water screening for nitrates by the League. This should be a great family fun day for all!!

STIGMA: YOU’RE WISE IF YOU LOSE IT!!!

The Healthiest Manitowoc County Mental Wellness Coalition Presents: **Stigma: You’re WISE if you lose it!!!** It will be held at the **UW Manitowoc County Board Room on Wednesday, May 6th at noon and at 6:00 pm. Featured speakers are Pat Smith, Cecilia Broussard and Tracy Rogers.** Mental Health Service providers will be available from noon until 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served all day!!!

WISE stands for Wisconsin Initiative for Stigma Elimination. It is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals promoting inclusion and support for all affected by mental illness by advancing evidence – based practices for stigma reduction efforts.

1 in 4 people have a diagnosable mental health issue.

We invite everyone to come and learn about how they can make a difference in the lives of people living with the effects of mental illness. Help make our Manitowoc Community a Healthier place for everyone!! Be part of the solution.

MOVE TO AMEND

Please plan on meeting on **Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at the Manitowoc City Hall at 2:00 PM** one more time. In preparation for the meeting, I would ask everyone to:

Review the minutes of the last meeting and please let me know what I forgot.

Check with their church or any other place to determine if we could meet there on a regular basis. We need to set something up.

Speak to friends and acquaintances, especially conservative ones, and tell them what is going on. We need to find some more conservative members to make this a truly non-partisan effort. We know most people do not like the presence of big money in our government, so let's see if we can become more politically well rounded.

Go on the wimta.org web site and look around.

ANNUAL MEETING

LWV OF MANITOWOC COUNTY will hold its annual meeting on **THURSDAY, MAY 14TH at the Holiday Inn**. Social Time and registration will be from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm; dinner at 6:00 pm.

After dinner, Jen Kern will be our guest speaker for the evening. She is also a native of Two Rivers. Jen Kern is the National Issue Campaigns Director for the Working Families Organization, leading campaign planning and support for Working Families' local and state issue campaign work – focusing on economic justice, inequality, racial justice and democracy.

Working Families' aim is to advance bold policy goals that support dignity and justice for working class communities and communities of color. Working Families combines issue advocacy campaigns with a year-round electoral engagement to win ground breaking policies. The organization currently operates in eight states – including its newest chapter – Wisconsin Working Families – and it is expanding!!

After our speaker, our annual business meeting will take place. It will include approval of our program as well as the election of officers.

This year we are sending the invitation by mail. You will have a choice of chicken, salmon, or vegetarian meal. Please make your **checks payable to the Holiday Inn** for the correct amount. Mail your choice and check **by May 8, 2015** to Anita Rappe at 2103 South 9th Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220.

The following is the slate of officers and board members to be elected to serve:

OFFICERS:

Vice President:	Catherine L. Cole (2015-2017)
Secretary:	Julie Grinde (2015-2017)

ELECTED DIRECTORS: (2015-2017)

Joan Kaeiser Marilyn Sontag
Mary Wallace Jaci Collins

APPOINTED DIRECTORS (2015-2016)

Cecelia Held
Kathleen Bernhart

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2016-2017)

Darlene Wellner Jean Rausch

Submitted by the Nominating Committee – Catherine Cole (Chairperson)

CURRENT OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2014-2016

President: Anita Rappe (2014-2016)
Treasurer: Jo Ellen Gramling (2014-2016)

Jennifer Balma Linda Gratz
Connie Hendries Nancy Slattery
Patricia Dodge

Our proposed budget for the following year will be forthcoming under separate cover.

If you have any problems receiving our newsletter, please remember that you can go to our website at lwvmanitowoc.org or visit our facebook site for more information. You can also contact me at (920) 553-8757.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Cole, Editor

