

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

Calendar of Events

02/13	Great Decisions: Trade and Politics
02/20	Great Decisions: Saudi Arabia in Transition
02/23	Children's Mental Health Services
02/27	GrD: Latin America's Petroleum Pendulum
03/06	GrD: Conflict in the South China Sea
03/07	LWVMC: Board Meeting at 4:00 pm

Dear League Members,

The New Year is getting off to a good start. We have had great attendance at all of our issue events. More than 40 people attended our Housing Issues Panel Discussion in January and at the recent forum held on February 9th. Not all who attended were from the League, but from our community. A big thank you goes to Julie Grinde, Chairman of the Poverty Study and Theresa Collins who chaired the Housing Issues Panel Discussion. Another big thank you goes to Connie Hendries who coordinates the Candidates Forum and acts as moderator. Julie Grinde is the time keeper that gives the candidates time to answer each question, but limits their responses. We had great questions from the audience that contributed to the success of this forum.

When Marilyn Sontag and Darlene Wellner proposed setting up a Great Decisions Program at the library ten years ago; no one thought of the impact it would make to the League and the Community. This is the tenth season for the Great Decisions Program. From the very first night that it began, we had over 140 people in attendance on the coldest day of the year and the attendance has been consistently over a hundred on each topic. For those of you who attended our first night this year, Marilyn Sontag had brought a cake and balloons to celebrate. We had more than 150 people in attendance and the response to our speaker was electrifying!! Some of the speakers scheduled are old friends and others are new. We look forward to another diversified series.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

The League's Mental Health Committee is sponsoring a public forum on children's mental health. It will take place on **Thursday, February 23 at 7 pm at Manitowoc City Hall.**

When the committee completed its study on mental health in 2013, services for children were noted as a gap in the county which is why the committee decided to focus on this important issue.

The discussion will start with a panel consisting of Stacy Ledvina, Social Work Supervisor at Manitowoc County HSD, Maureen Crowley, Psychology Professor at UW Manitowoc and Linda Luedtke, Guidance Counselor at Two Rivers High School. They will discuss what they see as the positive efforts on behalf of children in the county as well as the needs and gaps they see in services.

The panel will be followed by an opportunity for questions from the audience and hopefully some good suggestions will be brought out regarding efforts that can improve services for children.

Before the panel gets started, the committee will provide a brief review of their study's original recommendations and progress that has been made since the study was published.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The phone tree will be activated to remind members of this meeting.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions has begun. It will be held every Monday at the Manitowoc Public Library at 6:00 pm for the next seven weeks. The topics and the speakers are varied and offer information on current issues of the day.

- 02/13: Trade and Politics; Martin Farrell from Ripon College
- 02/20: Saudi Arabia in Transition; Beth Dougherty, Beloit College
- 02/27: Latin America's Petroleum Pendulum; Pablo Toral, Beloit College
- 03/06: Conflict in the South China Sea; Dimirri Lazo, Alverno College
- 03/13: U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum; Wendy Scattergood, St. Norbert Coll.
- 03/20: Nuclear Security; Arthur Cyr, Carthage College
- 03/27: Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan; Peter Kranstover, Ret. Diplomat

If you wish to meet these speakers before the program begins, dinner is at the Courthouse Pub at 4:30 pm and is open to all. If you plan to attend one of these, please contact Marilyn Sontag at 682-8988 so that a place will be set for you. The dinners don't have to be too expensive. Some people order appetizers, soup and salad, etc. So consider attending one of these special meals with our speakers. Thank you, Marilyn and Darlene for getting the speakers and organizing the weekly dinners. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated by all.

POVERTY COMMITTEE

Theresa Collins would like to thank everyone who participated, brought treats, and attended the Housing Issues Panel Discussion. Theresa is one of our newer members of League and became a member of the Poverty Committee. She did an excellent job as moderator and had great questions for the panel. She also asked the audience to write questions that she would ask for them. It was very well organized.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Poverty Study, please contact Julie Grinde at 682-6747 for further information. Since it has a wide range of information to study, the committee is always looking for more members.

FORUM

Connie Hendries would like to thank everyone who participated, brought treats, and attended the Forum. Connie, Chairman, and moderator, with her trusty sidekick, Julie Grinde, time keeper led the Candidates Forum with ease. The questions that were given to the candidates were thoughtful, intelligent, and informative. As you may have read, there are only two candidates running for Judge of Court, Branch Three: Attorneys Pat Koppa and Bob Dewane. Donald Chewing has dropped out. There are only two candidates running for Manitowoc City Council, District 7: Austin Mielizarek and Todd Lotz. Peter Adams dropped out. Since this is at such a late date, the ballots have been printed with their names. Please remember this information and vote responsibly.

BOARD MEETINGS

We have our board meetings the first Monday of every month at 4:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church on 8th Street. During Great Decisions, we hold these meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. Members of League are invited to attend to see the board in action. During the following months, we are looking for members who wish to be on board, be an officer, working on another forum for March, and participate in the Earth Day Program on Saturday, April 29 at the YMCA from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. This is the hub and heart of the League. Please consider attending a board meeting and watch us in action.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Cole, Editor