

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02/12	GD: Russia's Foreign Policy
02/19	GD: Turkey: A Partner in Crisis
02/20	Primary Election
02/26	China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation
03/05	Media and Foreign Policy
03/06	Board Meeting
03/12	GD: South Africa's Fragile Democracy
03/15	Candidates' Forum
03/19	U.S. Global Engagement & the Military
03/26	Global Health: Progress & Challenges

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Dear League Members,

WOW!!! What a way to start the second part of our League programs. First, we had a forum on Facing Hunger in Manitowoc County: A Challenge, and secondly, we had a Candidate Forum for the Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge position. Both of these programs were well attended. We had over 35 people at the forum on Hunger in Manitowoc County and over 100 people attended the Candidates' Forum. A big thank you goes to Julie Grinde and her Poverty Committee and to the panel that presented the information and answered questions from the audience.

Also, a big thank you goes to Connie Hendries, our moderator and coordinator, Julie Grinde, our time keeper, Jennifer Balma, our publicist, Shelly Randerson, our web site master and Nancy Slattery, our recorder, and to Jaci Collins, our President, who has loaned us her camera that allowed Nancy to record the Candidates' Forum and place it in Hot Topics on our web site for all to visit.

We have just had our first Great Decisions program with Alise Coen from UW-Manitowoc. We drew in an audience of 100 even with the flu and cold weather. Again, the Great Decisions variety of topics looks interesting and current with what is happening in the world around us. I hope that many of you will get the opportunity to attend one or all of this series.

POVERTY STUDY

Our League sponsored a program “Facing Hunger in Manitowoc County: The Growing Challenge” on January 18th. Our speakers included people from Meals on Wheels, Food Agencies and local Pantries. Shortly after the program, the Board of the Reis Endowment Fund had a letter to the community. Their Foundation was setting up a Reis Endowment Fund/Food Pantry Account. Any money given to this account would be matched by the Foundation and the money raised would be distributed to four pantries in Manitowoc and Two Rivers. The match would be a maximum of \$7,500. What a great community response to our program. If you wish to donate, send it to: P. O. Box 388, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241.

Julie Grinde, Chairman

GREAT DECISIONS

- 02/12 Russia’s Foreign Policy, John Katzka, Retired Diplomat
- 02/19 Turkey: A Partner in Crisis, Beth Dougherty, Ph.D, Beloit College
- 02/26 China & America: The New Geopolitical Equation, Martin Farrell, PhD, Ripon College (Retired)
- 03/05 Media and Foreign Policy, Elizabeth Wheat, PhD, UW-Green Bay
- 03/12 South Africa’s Fragile Democracy, Heinz Klug, S.J.D., UW Law School
- 03/19 U. S. Global Engagement & the Military, Kevin Kelly, J.D. UW Law School
- 03/26 Global Health: Progress and Challenges, Anne Dressel, PhD UW-Milwaukee

ELECTION DAY –FEBRUARY 20TH

On February 1, we had a candidates’ forum for the vacancy of the Circuit Court Judge. The forum is on the League’s website: lwvmanitowoc.org under Hot Topics. There are two websites for the Wisconsin Supreme Court: Candidates for Wisconsin Supreme Court and [vote 411.org/ballot](http://vote411.org/ballot). Absentee ballots are available.

CANDIDATES' FORUM

On Thursday, March 15th, at 7:00 pm at the Manitowoc City Hall, a Candidates' Forum will be between Eric Sitkiewitz and Bob Ziegilbauer for the County Executive Seat. Election Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2018.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On Thursday, April 26, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Manitowoc City Hall at 900 Quay Street, District Administrators Mark Holzman and Lisa Quistorf along with Heather DuBois Bourenane will discuss the School Voucher System and its impact on school districts and local taxes.

MAY BANQUET

Mark your calendar and date has been set for the May Banquet. It will be held on Wednesday, May 16th at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. More information will be coming in the next newsletter.

NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee will be meeting in March to present a slate to the members of league. If you wish to serve on board, please let one of our board members know of your interest. Also, the LWV-WI is seeking nominations for the State Board. The Board meets 4 times a year and via telecommunications the rest of the time. The nominations are due by February 23rd. Serving on the Manitowoc County Board or the State Board is a great way to learn more about the League. Please consider serving.

LWVLMR

The SPLASH Quarterly Newsletter has been issued and will be sent to all League members. On June 27th, in Chicago the LWVLMR will hold its Annual Meeting. The business meeting will be followed by an interactive workshop on advocacy, focused on water policy issues, and a dinner. This League will be teaming up with the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization for this event.

League members from across the country are coming to Chicago for the 2018 National Convention (starting the next day) and are invited to attend. We are especially hopeful that our members from the states surrounding Lake Michigan and the Upper Mississippi River will join us. Everyone interested in the environment, natural resources, and related topics are welcome.

PHONE TREE

We don't get the opportunity to visit as a group unless league members attend our Christmas Social and/or our May Banquet. So, that sense of belonging and camaraderie is lacking when it comes to League as a whole. The phone tree was established to extend a personal touch to our League members since most of our issue events are open to the public. However, I am hearing from my phone tree callers that many of you feel that this is an interruption to your day. If you feel that way, please let your phone tree caller know that you appreciate the notification, but would rather not receive a phone call in the future. Your phone tree caller will honor your request.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV – WI Annual Meeting – June 8th and 9th Oshkosh, Wisconsin
LWV -- National Convention 2018 – June 28th – July 1st Hilton Chicago
720 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

