

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

01/22	Move to Amend
02/02	Great Decisions: Russia & the Near Abroad
02/03	Board Meeting
02/09	Great Decisions: Privacy in the Digital Age
02/16	Great Decisions: U. S. Policy Toward Africa
02/23	Great Decisions: Sectarianism in the Middle East

Hello, and Happy New Year, League Members,

Here we are again in another new year. I hope you are as excited as I am to start working on issues important to our quality of life here in the U.S., Wisconsin, and Manitowoc County. Our Board Members have been working hard to present you with programs that educate and excite you.

For starters, we are presenting a program in January on the **Move to Amend Movement**. Many of you have never heard of this movement and it is very important to us in a democratic society. Please attend this informational session to learn all about it. It is informative only, since the League has not taken a position on it. You can draw your own conclusions. I expect we will be hearing more about it in the future. The program is on: **January 22, 2015 at 7 PM at Manitowoc City Hall**. Invite all relatives and friends also. It is open to the public.

In February and March, we will be presenting the Great Decisions again for the 9th year. Darlene Wellner and Marilyn Sontag have been working hard with the other sponsors of this great program and have engaged wonderful speakers for these sessions. If you want more information about the various topics, the Manitowoc has materials available. Again, invite relatives, friends, and neighbors to attend.

April is Earth Day month, and we are beginning to plan our participation in this. Last year's attendance was disappointing, so we want to stir more interest, especially with families. Anyone interested, or has great ideas are welcome in this endeavor.

Keep your eyes and ears open, as there is a possibility of more programs coming. As a member of the League, you have expressed your interest and support for our programs. Please get involved and participate in our great work. See you in 2015.

Anita Rappe, President
League of Women Voters of
Manitowoc County

MOVE TO AMEND

There will be two meetings for this very important and informative meeting. One meeting will be held at **the Manitowoc Senior Center at 2:00 pm on Thursday, January 22nd**. A repeat presentation will be held **Thursday, January 22nd at Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street at 7:00 pm.**

George Penn will be making the same presentation at both sites. George Penn is a retired Nuclear Engineer and Energy Consultant. He is a member of the South Central MTA affiliate and Team leader for the outreach team.

Move to Amend is a **non-partisan issue**, since every single citizen, no matter what party they support, is equally affected by the issue of money in politics and the need to reclaim our voice. Move to Amend is a national movement to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision which opened the door for the super-rich and corporations to trample democracy. 12 Wisconsin communities voted in favor of amending the U.S. Constitution to reflect that:

1. Only human beings – not corporations, limited liability companies, unions, nonprofit organizations or similar associations – are endowed with Constitutional rights; and
2. Money is not speech and, therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limited political speech.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this meeting.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION/DONATION FUND

It is that time of year when we send out our annual letter asking for donations and /or a contribution to various companies and individuals. Unfortunately, the many contributors have been dwindling. In order to keep up with the demand for quality programs and speakers that inform and educate the public, we need to increase our source of revenue. The following have been loyal contributors: Alpert & Fellows, Tom and Virginia Bare, Sandy Bast, Katherine Daum, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Katz, Miller-St. Nazianz, Inc., Pfeffer Funeral Home, Radosevich, Mozinski & Cashman, United Credit Union, Don and Darlene Wellner, and Carol Wergin. We appreciate their continued support and hope that they will do so this year. However, the League is open to suggestions. If you have any contact with people and/or organizations that believe in our endeavors, please contact Cathy Cole at 920-553-8757.

If any of you are interested in joining the Philanthropy Committee, we are meeting this Thursday, January 15th, at 1:00 pm at Anita Rappe's home. If interested, please contact Cathy Cole at the above phone number and she will give you directions to Anita's house.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions begins on Monday, February 2nd, 2015 at the Manitowoc Public Library at 6:00 pm in the Balkansky Community Room on the 2nd floor. Great Decisions 2015 briefing books offer background information for the entire series. They are available at the MPL Service Desk for \$11. You need not purchase the briefing book to participate in the series.

February 2: Russia and the Near Abroad; John Katzka, Retired Diplomat.

February 9: Privacy in the Digital Age; Alonzo Kelly, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Science and Business, Silver Lake College

February 16: U. S. Policy Toward Africa; Aili Tripp, PhD, Professor of Political Science & Gender and Women's Studies, UW-Madison.

February 23rd: Sectarianism in the Middle East; Beth Dougherty, PhD, Professor of International Relations, Beloit College.

Bring and friend and enjoy an enlightening evening with these interesting topics and speakers.

REPORT FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAKE MICHIGAN REGION

Climate Change and Biodiversity for Lake Michigan was the theme of this year's LWVLMR Annual Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan, October 3, 4, and 5th. Videos of the sessions will be available soon and will be posted on the website. The first one posted will be Dr. Jeff Anderson's presentation on climate and other trends in and around Lake Michigan.

The league would like "**Sustainable Water Resources become a 2015 LWVUS priority.** No matter where you travel in the USA, water matters!!

According to LWV Indiana Natural Resources Chair, Jeanette Neagu, Wisconsin is among the majority of states in the U.S. that do not have mandatory state inspection programs for above ground chemical storage tanks. She discovered this and more as she delved into the topic in response to last year's disastrous chemical spill into West Virginia's Elk River that left 300,000 residents without drinking water. Neagu interviewed officials across the country to determine which states regulate these tanks. She found only five. That number includes West Virginia, which adopted regulations following the January 2014 Elk River spill.

The LWV of the Ripon, WI Area is partnering with the LWV Lake Michigan Region to host a talk by Neagu addressing above ground storage tanks at **7 pm on Thursday, January 15th** in the **Council Chambers of Ripon City Hall, 100 Jackson Street.** **The Ripon Channel will broadcast this presentation live on Charter cable channel 986.**

