

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

01/13	Training Session for Registering Voters – 3:45 pm City Hall
01/14	Peer Specialist Program on Mental Health Issues
01/21	Training Session for Registering Voters – 10 am City Hall
01/28	Panel of Superintendents of Schools
02/01	Great Decisions Begins
02/02	Board Meeting

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Dear League Members,

Happy New Year!! Hold on to your hats, people. 2016 promises to be an exciting and busy one. As promoters of fair and clean elections, we have had some serious hits this past year, the most serious being the dissolving of the Government Accountability Board; but it will not stop us from continuing our fight to secure voting rights for EVERYONE.

I encourage ALL of you to become active in the League's activities. We are starting the year with a program updating our education status in the Manitowoc County School Districts. Of course, we will have the Great Decisions in February and March, and there are some exciting topics and speakers. We will also have programs in the following months on our ongoing studies and other topics of community interest. Please access our website for details.

Now, more than ever, stay active in the activities that promote fair elections, and programs that improve the lives of our citizens. It is a critical time for us to use our individual and collective voices to do that. The Board would like to wish all of you the best of everything in the coming year. Thank you for your involvement.

Sincerely,

Anita Rappe, President
League of Women Voters of
Manitowoc County

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Healthiest Manitowoc County Mental Wellness Coalition Advocacy Subcommittee is presenting a program on Certified Peer Specialists which will take place on **Thursday, January 14, at noon in room 300** at the **Manitowoc County Office Building, 4319 Expo Dr., Manitowoc**. Public and private agencies that work with the public and may benefit from using Peer Specialists to provide support for their clients are encouraged to attend this workshop.

Certified Peer Support Specialists are people who have experienced mental health issues themselves. They go through extensive training and are employed or volunteer in a variety of settings to help other individuals experiencing mental health difficulties. Currently, there are 472 trained Certified Peer Specialists in Wisconsin. Recently, two Manitowoc area residents were trained as Certified Peer Specialists.

The guest speaker will be Alice Pauser of Access to Independence, a Madison nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to enable any individual with a disability to maintain independence. She will speak on how to utilize Certified Peer Specialists, how they can benefit an organization, and new training requirements which will be in effect in 2016.

Ms. Pauser is the Coordinator of the Certified Peer Specialist Program for the State of Wisconsin and is contracted through Access to Independence, Inc. to oversee the coordination of the statewide project, including certification and recertification as well as the www.wicps.org website. Access to Independence is the point of contact for the Certified Peer Specialist employment initiative. Ms Pauser serves on several committees including the Peer Specialist Committee of the Wisconsin Implementation Task Force. She is a nationally certified Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Facilitator and has traveled extensively, including Japan, to present on the Wisconsin Peer Specialist Certification model.

Light refreshments will be served. We ask that you **RSVP Mary Wallace at mwallace@lakefield.net** if you plan on attending.

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING DAYS

On **Wednesday, January 13th at 3:45** or on **Thursday, January 21st at 10:00 am**, Jennifer Hudon, City Clerk of the city of Manitowoc has agreed to train us again. The session usually takes about 45 minutes to an hour. Since material needs to be printed, we ask that you **RSVP Cathy Cole at cathyanddan@lakefield.net** if you plan on attending either session.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On Thursday, January 28th at the Manitowoc City Hall, 7:00 pm, a panel of superintendents or representatives of the various school districts in Manitowoc County will conduct a discussion of the status of the public schools in the area. The public is welcomed to attend and ask questions of the various superintendents. Light refreshments will be served.

The phone tree will be activated to remind members.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will begin on **Monday, February 1st 6:00 pm in the Balkansky Community Room, 2nd Floor**, the Manitowoc Public Library. The selected topics are as follows:

The Middle East; The Rise of ISIS; the Future of Kurdistan; Migration; The Koreas; the United Nations; Climate Change and Cuba and the United States.

The speakers have been selected – some are new and others are old friends. Booklets with these topics will be available at the Manitowoc Public Library. However, you need not purchase the booklets to participate in the series.

The League does this series with the Manitowoc Public Library Foundation, Friends of Manitowoc Public Library, Lakeshore Peacemakers, Pax Christi, University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc, Silver Lake College and the Manitowoc Public Library.

This program has never failed to reach over one-hundred people in attendance on any given subject regardless of weather. It is always good to welcome new and old friends to this series. It is the sunshine of our winter season.