

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

01/18	FORUM: Facing Hunger in Manitowoc County
01/22	FILM: The Anonymous People
02/01	Candidate Forum for MC Circuit Court Judge
02/05	Great Decisions: The Waning of Pax Americana
02/06	Board Meeting
02/12	GD: Russia's Foreign Policy
02/19	GD: Turkey: A Partner in Crisis
02/20	Primary Election
02/26	China & America: The New Geopolitical Equation

Dear League Members,

Let's begin by thanking Julie and George Grinde for hosting our Holiday Social in December. Many members of the League attended that night and enjoyed the food and conversation. It was a great way to begin the Holiday Season and end the year of 2017. Julie and George always make you feel at home. They are great hosts and have been doing this for many years. For those of you, who didn't attend; think about it for next year.

The New Year has begun with many events on the horizon. Please read the Newsletter for all in depth information on time and location of all the events listed in the Calendar of Events.

Even though winter is here, the focus on making our community and county a better place is of interest to all of us. Our next event is a forum on Facing Hunger in Manitowoc County: The Growing Challenge. It will be held at the Manitowoc City Hall on Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 pm.

Put on your coats, gloves and scarves and meet us at the Manitowoc City Hall or at the Manitowoc Public Library for enlightening conversations and light refreshments to warm our hearts.

Cathy

POVERTY COMMITTEE

The Poverty Committee has put together a forum on **January 18th at 7:00 in the Council Chambers of the Manitowoc City Hall located at 900 Quay Street.** The speakers include Lori Garceau: Food Share, Kim Loose: Meals on Wheels, Woody Schullander: Peter's Pantry, Amber Daus – Grow-it-forward, Yvonne Sharlein: TEFAP (Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program).

A 2014 United Way study found 42% of Manitowoc County residents did not have enough income to provide for basic living needs in their households. Federal agencies and local efforts work together to provide food to food insecure individuals and households. Being food insecure means they do not have adequate money to purchase enough food for all members of their household on a regular basis.

This forum is free and open to all people in our county. Please invite friends, neighbors, relatives and anyone who wants to be informed on this vital issue facing all us. Light refreshments will be served.

THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE

On Monday, January 22, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 502 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, a feature documentary film about the more than 23 million Americans living in long term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs will be shown. The doors will open at 5:30 pm and show time is at 6:00 pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Any questions, call (920) 682-3737, ask for Christma.

CANDIDATE FORUM

The LWV-Manitowoc County will hold a Candidate Forum on Thursday, February 1 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Manitowoc City Hall at 900 Quay Street. The following candidates for the Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge Branch III position will participate: Ralph Sczygeiski, John Bilka, Eric Pangburn, Jerilyn Dietz, and Patricia Koppa. The primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th. Light refreshments will be served.

GREAT DECISIONS:

Great Decisions begins another eight sessions at the Manitowoc Public Library on **Monday, February 5 at 6:00 pm.** The topic is The Waning of Pax Americana presented by Alise Coen, Ph.D from UW-Manitowoc.

- 02/12 Russia’s Foreign Policy; John Katzka, Retired Diplomat
- 02/19 Turkey: A Partner in Crisis; Beth Dougherty, PhD., Beloit College
- 02/26 China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation; Martin Farrell, Ph.D., Ripon College

Great Decisions is a grassroots world affairs education program. It was started by the Foreign Policy Association to bring together Americans from across the nation to discover and discuss foreign policy issues. Manitowoc Library and its supporters have been sponsoring this program for eleven years. The Great Decisions 2018 briefing books are on sale at the main desk at the library. The price for the book is still a bargain at \$15.00. Light refreshments will be served.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the beginning of our new fiscal year, we have been fortunate to add three new members to our league. Mary Kempf, Valerie Grissom, and Sally Semmes have joined our ranks. We have been fortunate to meet Mary, Valerie and Sally at some of our events so far this year. Please welcome them when they attend our forums and issues meetings. A revised membership list will be sent to all.

DRUG COURT

For many years, the league has advocated for a drug court to be established in Manitowoc County. Drug Court is now a reality. It meets at 9:00 am on Wednesday at Courtroom 1 on the second floor of the Courthouse and ends around 10:00 am. There are currently 5 or 6 participants who speak with Judge Rohr about their week and the plans for the current week. There are many league members who have wanted to see this in our county and community. Congratulations to all those who are and have been involved in this process. We wish success for all.

PHILANTHROPIES

In the next few weeks, the treasurer and I will be sending out a letter to ask for contributions or donations to help us with our issues programs, forums, and studies. Like so many organizations, our donations and contributions have been down since the economy has been down. Many of our donors have continued to support us, but there are other companies and individuals who are weighing their options and putting their money towards the most need. We are grateful to all of our members and donors who have continued to support us, but now, we need to look at other ways to increase our funds. If you have some ideas that you wish to share, I would be happy to talk with you. Thank you for considering this committee. Cathy at (920) 553-8757.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars!!! District Administrators Mark Holzman and Lisa Quistorf of Manitowoc Public Schools and Two Rivers School district along with Heather DuBois Bourenane, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Public Education Network, will be featured speakers in an education committee issue forum on Thursday, April 26, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Manitowoc City Hall at 900 Quay Street. The speakers will discuss the School Voucher System and its impact on school districts and local taxes.

Manitowoc County LWV

Natural Resource-Environment Group Update

The viewing of the film in November “Before the Flood” was well attended. This film produced by National Geographic and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio presents the dramatic changes occurring around the world due to climate change. It also provides concrete solutions that we all can do to address this environmental challenge that we face.

A DVD of the film is available for anyone wishing to view or share with your congregation, organizations, or groups that you feel may be interested.

Contact Bev for details circleofsong@tds.net or call 920-693-8941.

A special thanks to everyone who helped to organize or promote the film.
Anita Rappe, Angela Zar, Nancy Lodl, Ginny Finnel, Kim Everett, Judi Northern,
Jaci Collins, Cathy Cole: Newsletter, Jennifer Balma: Face Book,
Shelly Randerson: Website.

Possible 2018 events for the Natural Resource Group...

April: Organize an Earth Day Event

2018 Fall Elections: Meet with the Natural Resource Group and come up with an action plan for bringing environmental issues to the attention of all candidates who are running for public office.

We welcome other suggestions for actions from league members and invite anyone interested to join us in organizing future events.

Bev Rawling, Natural Resource Group Chair