

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Calendar of Events

01/15	Fair Maps sponsored by the Sheboygan LWV
01/24	Observer Corp Meeting
02/03	GD: U. S. Relations w/the Northern Triangle
02/04	Board Meeting
02/10	GD: Climate Change & the Global Order
02/17	GD: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
02/18	Election Day
02/20	Poverty and Housing in Manitowoc County

Dear League Members,

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Julie and George Grinde who have hosted our Christmas Social for many years. As always, they welcomed all to their home. It was amazing to see Christmas decorations so soon after Thanksgiving!! It put everyone into the Christmas season. We were very pleased that some new members attended the social. It was so good to see Bonnie Budysz, Robert Treaker, and Shelley Kimble-Welch. A good time was had by all who were there. Julie and George, thank you again for opening your home to the League.

The Holiday Season is over and now it is time to begin the second half of the year. The board and several of its committees have been busy with scheduling meetings and programs for the next months of the fiscal year of 2019-20.

Please take time to look over the Newsletter as much information is contained in the next few pages.

Thank you for all the time and contributions that each one of you makes. The Board appreciates your services.

Sincerely,

Cathy

FAIR MAPS

The League of Women Voters of Sheboygan County presents **Fair Maps** with **Mary Lynne Donohue on Wednesday, January 15th at 6:30 pm at the William Weissert Community Center, Lakeshore Community Health Care, 1721 Saemann Avenue, Sheboygan. Arrive at 6:00 pm for social time and light refreshments.**

OBSERVER CORP MEETING, Linda Gratz, Chair

The Observer Corp will have its next meeting on Friday, January 24rd at Manitowoc Coffee at 12:00 pm. It is open to all League Members. If you are interested, please come at this time.

GREAT DECISIONS, Marilyn Sontag and Darlene Wellner, Co-Chairs

Great Decisions begins another year of diverse topics. Great Decisions will meet on Mondays starting February 3rd and continues until March 23rd. It is held at the Balkansky Room of the Manitowoc Public Library beginning at 6 pm. Light Refreshments will be served.

Topics and speakers are as follows:

- 02/03: U. S. Relations with the Northern Triangle – Alise Coen, UW Green Bay
- 02/10: Climate Change & Global Order – Pablo Toral , Beloit College
- 02/17: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking -- Beth Dougherty, Beloit College
- 02/24: Artificial Intelligence and Data – Matthew Friedel, UW Milw.
- 03/02: The Philippines & the U.S. – John Katzka, Retired Diplomat
- 03/09: India & Pakistan – Peter Kranstoer , Retired USAID
- 03/16: Red Sea Security – Dan Stoll, St. Norbert College
- 03/23: China’s Road into Latin America – Martin Farrell, Retired, Ripon College

If you would like to meet the speakers earlier, you can dine with them at the Courthouse Pub at 4:30 pm. Please let Marilyn Sontag know of your intentions by calling at 682-8988 or e-mail at sontagcr@sbcglobal.net.

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE -- Linda Gratz and Mary Wallace,
CoChairs**

The Mental Health Committee is continuing to study the feasibility of a mental health court in Manitowoc County. There are only 5 such courts in Wisconsin and we are visiting them to learn how they operate and how they got started. Our trip to Outagamie County is coming up in late January. There is a lot of local support for the idea of a mental health court in the community, especially with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. We will be authoring a report when we have completed our research.

VOTER REGISTRATION

As most of you know, we can no longer be trained to register citizens to vote. However, we are able to help them as long as they have a current license or ID. Cathy Cole has talked with both the Lester Library and the Manitowoc Public Library to help the League register voters. Both libraries have agreed to give League members access to two computers for the purpose of aiding citizens to register. Kathy Bernhart is working on a schedule with Manitowoc Public Library. If interested in helping, please call her at 629-0620 or email: Kbernhart64@gmail.com

If you are unsure, please go to myvote.wi.gov. This website will know your voter registration status, find your polling place, find the date of your next local election, and see what's on your ballot. There is a black out period that begins on January 29th until the date of the election in February.

POVERTY AND HOUSING IN MANITOWOC COUNTY

The League will be hosting a Forum on Poverty & Housing at Manitowoc City Hall on **Thursday, February 20th, 2020 at 7:00 PM**. This event is free and open to the general public. We encourage lawmakers and community representatives at all levels to attend, as well as those impacted by our lack of low income housing. An industry expert will address the current state of low income housing in Manitowoc, and will explore what it would take to have enough housing to meet the need. We will look at how similar issues have been addressed successfully in

other communities. We will advise on the different types of housing, as well as what is currently available and what the wait lists look like. We will then discuss the launch of the 2021 League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County Poverty & Housing Study.

What: Forum on Poverty & Housing in Manitowoc

Where: Manitowoc City Hall Council Chambers (900 Quay Street, Manitowoc)

When: Thursday, February 20th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Why: Launch the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County Poverty & Housing Study

Light refreshments will be provided.