

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

03/09	Great Decisions: Syria's Refugee Crisis
03/16	Great Decisions: Brazil's Metamorphosis
03/18	Joint Finance Committee Public Hearings
03/19	Two Rivers Candidates Forum
03/23	Great Decisions: Human Trafficking
03/30	Manitowoc Referendum
04/06	Board Meeting
04/07	Election Day
04/25	Earth Day Celebration held at the YNCA
05/14	Annual Meeting/May Banquet

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Dear League Members,

The League still has many programs and the Board is continuing to develop more of these programs that will be of interest to all of you.

Great Decisions is in its last month of programs. We have had excellent speakers present their knowledge on different topics. The interest in Manitowoc County keeps on growing. We have had over 100 people in attendance at each presentation, only a third of the audience is a league member which proves that if you have something of interest and quality, people will come. The weather is getting better. Come and join us at the Manitowoc Public Library for some interesting topics and conversations.

Even though, we are coming to an end in our fiscal year of 2014-15, we still have some events that are of importance to you, the league member, to our county, and to the people in our communities. Please read the newsletter, visit us on face book, or go to our website for further information.

The Board wishes all of you a very happy St. Patrick's Day (March 17th for all of our Irish friends), St. Joseph's Day (March 19th for all of our Italian friends), Passover, and Easter.

If any of you are having difficulty with receiving the Newsletter, please call me at (920) 553-8757 or e-mail me at cathyanddan@lakefield.net.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Cole, Newsletter & Membership Chairman

JOINT FINANCE ANNOUNCES BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

On Wednesday, March 18th at 10:00 am at Brillion High School, the Joint Finance Committee will be holding four public hearings on the state budget. Dr. Charles E. Clark, Campus Dean & Executive Officer of UW-Manitowoc plans to attend this meeting at 10:00 am and provide a statement. According to Dr. Clark, support that we have been providing can be very effective. If you are able to attend this hearing sometime during the day, please contact him at charles.clark@uwc.edu. The hearings are scheduled from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, the following three locations are:

- 10:00 am to 5:00 pm: Friday, March 20th at Alverno College in Milwaukee
- 10:00 am to 5:00 pm: Monday, March 23rd at UW Barron County Rice Lake
- 9:30 am to 4:30 pm: Thursday, March 26th at the CAL Auditorium in Reedsburg.

FORUM

The Manitowoc County League of Women Voters will be conducting a forum for Two Rivers City Council candidates at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 19th in the Two Rivers Hall Council Chambers. There are five candidates for three open seats. Mark Bittner, Patrick Gagnon, Kay Koach, Darla LeClair, and Jack Powalisz will all participate. The event will also be televised at later dates on Charter Cable - local access. Members of the audience will have the opportunity to question the candidates.

NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING

On February 7, 2015 Cecilia Held, Board Member of LWVMC, participated along with 15 other Local Leagues in a conference call on Non-Partisan Redistricting lead by Carolyn Castore.

The purpose of the conference was to reorganize efforts around the issue of non-partisan redistricting. Carolyn described three goals for this meeting:

- (1) Hear what local Leagues can do.
- (2) Define what State Leagues can do for locals
- (3) Develop League Lobbying efforts.

The following is examples on how the three goals will be implemented.

- 1. Lobbying state legislators, letters to the editor, encourage county boards to model and adopt a non-partisan redistricting process on their own. Outagamie County recently passed a resolution. Dane County is exploring it. Andrea stated that Robin Voss said once Dane County completes the process, the state legislature may look at it. Green Bay sent out letters to

organizations to see if they would want info on non-partisan redistricting. Appleton set up a power point presentation. Set up a speaker's bureau is another suggestion.

2. The state League will send out info on developing the county board process and will train speaker's bureau presentations. Carolyn will draft letters for letters to the editor. Andrea has info on how to set up an editorial board. Outagamie County will send their editorial process to Carolyn who will distribute to locals. Rock County's model will also be shared.
3. For Lobbying purposes and presentations the League needs stories on how issues have been affected by redistricting, i.e., who has been hurt. The State League needs good maps demonstrating the redistricting carve-ups to display at presentations, i.e., how many districts in each county. State League also asked for locals to think up questions that would be hard to answer so the State can put together a Q/A cheat sheet. Talk to county clerks to determine if this affects their budgets. That may help County boards to pass a resolution. Keep the issue alive.

This needs to pass by 2018 since the 2016 folks will be around for 2021 for the new redistricting process.

We want to thank Cecilia Held for taking the conference call and passing on this information to the whole League.

MOVE TO AMEND

A core group of interested people met on March 4th to hear from the leader of the Fond du Lac Move to Amend. They were successful in passing a referendum that indicated that corporations and unions are not persons and so should not be granted rights as citizens. And, money is not free speech and so should not be protected as such. These both address the Citizen's United decision in 2009. Fond du Lac passed this by a vote of 73% of people voting in November 2014. Eleven other communities, including Green Bay passed this referendum in November.

The Manitowoc Core group will meet in early May to begin planning for a vote in the near future. Several League members have become involved in this group although the League **has not established a position on this issue**. We will keep you updated.

We want to thank Kathleen Bernhart for bringing this movement to our attention.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 25th at the Manitowoc/Two Rivers YMCA from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be lots of activities for the whole family. More information will be coming in the April 2015 Newsletter, but put this date on your calendar so that you don't miss out on the fun. Joan Kaeiser and Marilyn Sontag are co-chairing this project. If you would like to help out, please contact Marilyn at (920) 682-8988 or e-mail her at sontagcr@sbcglobal.net.

ANNUAL MEETING/MAY BANQUET

The May Banquet will be held at the **Manitowoc Holiday Inn on Thursday, May 14th**. We are very happy to announce that we will have Jen Kern, National Issue Campaigns Director for the Working Families Organization. Working Families is a progressive independent political organization that fights for economic and racial justice – and wins. Formed by labor unions, community organizations and grassroots activists, Working Families aim is to advance bold policy goals that support dignity and justice for all communities. More information will be forthcoming in the April 2015 Newsletter.

OZAUKEE COUNTY LWV

On Saturday, March 7, Anita and Ed Rappe, along with Darlene Wellner and Cathy Cole, went to the League of Women Voters of Ozaukee County’s Annual Women’s History Month Event. We had a wonderful brunch and met many of their League members. Dorothy Quincy Thomas was the speaker. She is the daughter-in-law of one of the members of the League. But more to the point, Dorothy Quincy Thomas is an independent scholar, feminist, and human rights activist. She serves as a Senior Strategy Consultant providing advice on human rights, women’s rights, and social justice to a variety of funding and policy organizations. She was the founding director of the Women’s Right Project of the Human Rights Watch and served in that position from 1990-98. She serves as senior strategist to the Sunrise initiative on Human Rights in the United States and the U.S. Human Right Fund, a grant-making collaborative she co-founded in 2005. She is a member of the Board of the British Institute for Human Rights and an Advisory Board Member for the Lambent Foundation and the ACLU Human Rights Program. Needless to say, she was very knowledgeable and gave a dynamic thought provoking speech. We want to thank their President Donna Fowler for this invitation to attend this enjoyable and informative event.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Cole, Editor

