

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017**

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Calendar of Events

11/16	DVD Viewing of Before the Flood
12/04	Social at the Grinde's
01/08	Board Meeting

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Dear League Members,

Congratulations to Jean Biegun, a member of the Poverty Study, for arranging to have Dan Walters speak on "The Science of Substance Abuse and Treatment Options." We had about 150 people in attendance and the survey that was taken by the audience was very positive. It was a huge success. For more information on the Poverty Study, please see the update in this newsletter.

On **Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 pm**, the League will be hosting the National Geographic Film, **BEFORE THE FLOOD**. I have sent an e-mail to all and have activated the phone tree so that all members will receive the reminder of this film on global warming and climate change. I hope to see many of you there. Please note the change in time. It is at 6:30 pm. More information is following in the Newsletter.

Also, please notice that this is the November/December Newsletter that combines the events through the end of 2017.

The Board would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Happy Holiday Season.

Cathy

BEFORE THE FLOOD

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County agrees with 97% of scientists who are telling us that the time to act on climate change is now. Come and join us

to view the National Geographic's film **"BEFORE THE FLOOD."** The film follows Leonardo DiCaprio's journey across 5 continents and the Arctic as he presents the dramatic changes occurring due to climate change and investigates concrete solutions to the most pressing environmental challenge of our time. The film will be held at Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street on Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 pm. Please bring a beverage of your choice to go with the refreshments that the Board will provide.

POVERTY STUDY UPDATE

Two years ago League members adopted a study "Poverty in Our Midst-Effects on Families in Manitowoc County." Twelve people joined the committee and four sub-committees were formed: Economic Factors, Housing and Transportation, Food and Health Care. The people began to gather information from printed resources and interviews of local people and agencies. This committee sponsored League meetings at City Hall that covered topics like poverty in the county, housing, and poverty issues in the Manitowoc and Two Rivers School Districts.

Recently, this committee sponsored the program "The Science of Substance Abuse and Treatment Options" at City Hall in October. The committee received a grant from the West Foundation and a donation from Pathways to a Better Life to cover the cost of the speaker, Dan Walters who is a pharmacist. About 150 people from the community attended this meeting about the impact of smoking, alcohol and other drugs on the brain and treatment options. Over 60 evaluations of this program were completed and most people rated it 5, the highest rating.

Currently, there are 6 people on the committee and they have been meeting twice a month since May. We have decided that we will publish our sections individually rather than in one long publication. Each piece is 40- 50 pages. Our first piece "Poverty and Addiction" is being edited and Jean is continuing to refine it. The section on Food is being edited and Julie is continuing to work on it. The Housing piece has sections started but needs to be expanded in some areas. The Health Care section has been started. This has been a challenge for all of us on the committee but we continue to work to complete this information which we believe is vital to understanding poverty in our county.

Thank you to the members of this committee for their dedication and commitment to completing this study: Jean Biegun, Nancy Slattery, Theresa Collins, Cecilia Held and Darlene Wellner. Julie Grinde, Chairman of the Poverty Study

ELECTION INSPECTORS

The City Clerk, Deborah Neuser, for the City of Manitowoc, is looking for election inspectors who are willing to be Chief Inspectors. This requires a 3 hour training session which will be available in Manitowoc on December 8th at 9:00 am. She currently has 10 certified Chief Inspectors and has 10 polling places in the City of Manitowoc. However, should one of the inspectors become ill or can't work for any reason, she does not have backup Chief Inspectors. These people could work as regular poll workers to get experience at the polls, but then could fill in if needed as a Chief Inspector. If anyone is interested in this position, it would be greatly appreciated. The Chief Inspectors do have to live in the City of Manitowoc. The rate of pay is \$150 plus \$15 for attending the Clerk's training the week prior to each election. If anyone is interested, please call the City Clerk's office at 686-6951 as soon as possible so that you can be enrolled in the December 8th training before it fills up.

Thank you,

Deborah Neuser, City Clerk

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County will be holding its annual Christmas Party at the home of Julie and George Grinde. It will be held on Monday, December 4th at 5:00 pm. All members and their significant others are invited to join us that evening. This is the only time of the year that we just visit with each other. It is a time to renew friendships and begin new ones. Board Members are asked to bring an appetizer. A separate flyer will be sent to all members with address information and directions on how to get to the Grinde's home. The phone tree will be activated as the time draws near. Please consider attending this fun event!! A big THANK YOU goes to Julie and George for opening up their home to all of us.

STATE NEWS

By now everyone should have received the September Forward that is the State's newsletter. In that issue, the State Convention was highlighted. All information on what is happening at the state level can be obtained by going to their website which is: lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org

Five members from our League attended the Issues Briefing meeting that was held on Saturday, October 28th. During this event, the topics covered were Current Issues on Immigration presented by Attorney Glorily Lopez, an Update on Wisconsin Gerrymandering Lawsuit, Voter Services, Poverty in Wisconsin addressed by Dr. Lawrence Berger, and Watershed and Water Quality in Wisconsin.

In January, we will begin again with our busy schedule of events. The Poverty Study will report on Food Assistance in Manitowoc County, Great Decisions will return in February and March, Voter Forums, Mental Health Update, Earth Day, Educational School Choice Program and the Annual Meeting in May. We hope that you will be attending many of these programs next year. As a Board we try to keep you informed on what is happening throughout our County, State and the National Levels.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Cole, Newsletter Editor