

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/11	LWV ISSUES MEETING
11/15	IMMIGRATION: MYTHS AND REALITIES
12/03	SOCIAL AT THE GRINDE'S
12/06	IMMIGRATION: MYTHS AND REALITIES
01/14	BOARD MEETING

Dear League Members,

We want to thank Julie and her committee for writing and issuing the report on Poverty and Addiction in Manitowoc County. It has been three years in the making. We had over 35 people in attendance at the October 25th unveiling of the report. To date, it has been well received by all who have received and read it. It has become so popular that a second printing of this report is in progress. I truly appreciated the response that I received from those members who offered to read the report on line. The report is on our website at lwvmanitowoc.org, click on present and past studies. The report is there.

We have two immigration meetings scheduled within weeks apart of each other. There was so much to discuss that the immigration committee thought it would be best to break up all the information that will be presented at those meetings. Further details are in the Newsletter.

Please note that this is the November/December Newsletter. I will not be publishing a newsletter for December. Like all of you, family and the holiday season with its own agenda comes first.

The League wants to wish all of you Happy Holidays and the best way to kick that off is to attend the Annual Christmas Social at Julie and George Grinde. Everyone and their significant other are invited. We usually bring a dessert or a hors d'oeuvre to past. We visit and enjoy a relaxing evening. It is a good way to get to know the members of the league. We hope that many of you will consider coming.

IMMIGRATION FORUM

Do you have questions regarding what is truth or fiction when it comes to the topic of immigration? If so, you are not alone and there is an event for you.

Manitowoc County League of Women Voters, RUTH (Responding with Understanding, Truth and Hope) and the Manitowoc Human Rights Coalition are sponsoring a two part forum on immigration entitled **Immigration Myths and Realities. Part I will take place on Thursday, November 15 at 7 pm at Manitowoc City Hall. Part II will take place on Thursday, December 6 at 7 pm at Manitowoc City Hall.**

Speakers for November 15 will be Dr. Alise Coen, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UW Sheboygan and UW Manitowoc and Attorney Sarah Griffiths, immigration attorney at the Grzeca Law Group in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, representing clients in Northeast Wisconsin.

Dr. Coen will focus her discussion on common myths about immigration, including immigrants' impact on the economy and security concerns. Attorney Griffiths will discuss immigrants' rights and options under current law. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience at this free public event. The second part of the forum will focus on accounts of how immigration policy affects people in our community. Entitled, Immigration, Myths and Realities on the Lakeshore, the event will feature three local speakers. Arlene Guzman Duarte is a Manitowoc business owner. She will be joined by Marcus Guevara of Sheboygan who is a lead workshop facilitator for Ideas Work and member of Voces de la Frontera. The final panelist will be Karl Klessig, local farmer. Again, there will be an opportunity for questions from the audience and the event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served at both events

ISSUES BRIEFING

On Saturday, November 11th in Middleton, the State LWV will be holding its annual issues meeting. We have four members of our League attending. They will be reporting the contents to the Board at the next meeting in January 2019 and will be published in the January 2019 Newsletter.

POVERTY AND ADDICTION IN MANITOWOC COUNTY

After 3 years of study, the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County published its report on Addiction and Poverty. Thank You to the committee who gathered the information using national, state, and local statistics and conducting countless interviews of people from local organizations, and agencies who serve people impacted by addiction. League members who contributed to this report included Darlene Wellner and Nancy Lodl who interviewed people involved in health care and wrote some of the early information. Thank you to Nancy Slattery and Cecilia Held for researching other topics, interviewing people and writing sections of the report. Ginny Finnel worked on editing and adding graphics to the report. Theresa Collins allowed us to use technology at her business location, Beacon Consulting, which made editing easier. Everyone on the committee spent from June to October editing and refining the content and updating information. Theresa writes grants for non-profit organizations and her editing skills helped make the report look more professional. Jean Biegun used her talent as a writer to compile all the information into a compelling narrative of what drugs can do to the brain and the resources that Manitowoc County has to help people struggling with addiction. She attended meetings in the county and surrounding areas to gather additional information about the issues surrounding addiction and the emotional impact this disease has on individuals and families. Her passion carried the committee far beyond our expectations.

The West Foundation provided our league with funds to print 100 copies to be given to the agencies and organizations that provided the committee with information. Two league members contributed the funds for 50 more copies. The publication has been distributed to league members who wanted a print copy. A copy has been sent to the LWV Wisconsin and the LWV of the United States. Others in the community have indicated they are using the information as they develop grants for their agencies. Kate and John Miller have expressed an interest in funding any additional printings.

Being a part of this committee has been an extraordinary experience for all of us. We had this opportunity to educate our citizens about an issue impacting thousands of people in our county. As we worked together, we became committed to this project and to each other. This is what often happens as league members plan programs for the community or do local studies.

This report can be found on the website of the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County under the topic “Past and Present Studies.” In February, our league members will discuss the report and determine a plan of action.

Julie Grinde, Chair

GREAT DECISIONS

The Foreign Policy Association has released the topics for 2019. The Committee is in the process of scheduling speakers for the months of February and March. The topics are: Refugees and Global Migration; The Middle East: Regional Disorder; Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future; The Rise of Populism in Europe; Decoding U.S. China Trade; Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics; The U.S. and Mexico Partnership Tested; and State of the State Department and Diplomacy.

Great Decisions will begin on February 4th at the Manitowoc Public Library at 6 pm. More information will be provided in the January 2019 Newsletter.

SOCIAL

The League will have its annual Social at Julie and George Grinde’s home. This is the time that we take to just enjoy what we have accomplished and what needs to be done. Rarely do we talk business. This is open to all members and their significant other. Most members bring an appetizer, a dessert, or beverage to this event. An invitation is attached to the Newsletter with all the information that you need.
