

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER**

Calendar of Events

**Winter Social
Board Meeting**

**Monday, December 7
Monday, January 5**

Dear League Members,

This newsletter covers both November and December. We had our last program for the year on Tuesday, November 23rd. This program was used as a stepping stone to a full-blown poverty study that the league voted upon at our May meeting. We had approximately 25 people in attendance on that rainy evening.

This is our time that we express Thanks for our families, friends, health and well being. It is also a time to reflect on what the League has accomplished through the years because of the members and their desire to make our city, county, state, and nation better. I am always amazed at our energies, interests, and knowledge on a variety of topics, and how we blend to make our diverse personalities work in harmony. We have an amazing League. Many Leagues admire us for all that we do and it is because of all of you.

So, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday Season and enjoy the break from League, but get ready!! Starting in January, we will have a list of programs that will entice and peak your interest!!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Winter Social

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County will be holding its annual Winter Social at the home of Julie and George Grinde. It will be held on **Monday, December 7th 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 house. 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.

POVERTY COMMITTEE

At the November League meeting, we had an opportunity to see a power point by Teri Ziege-Halvorsen of the UW-Extension. The topic was "Hunger and Poverty in Manitowoc County. She shared local statistics on the poverty rate in the county and the number of people, especially children, who are living at the poverty level. There was a wonderful write-up in the Herald Times Reporter on Thursday, November 19th about the presentation by Marcus Nesemann. Anyone who wants a copy of the presentation can e-mail Julie Grinde and she will forward the e-mail with the attachment. Since the presentation was in color, the color will be murky on some pages when printed on a non-color printer. Julie's e-mail address is grinde6145@yahoo.com.

LEAGUE MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE PLANNING EVENT FOR 2016

Our League Mental Health Committee, which completed a study of mental health services in Manitowoc County in 2013, has continued to meet regularly to work on implementing the recommendations of our study. We have done this through our committee work as well as by collaborating with other community organizations such as the Healthiest Manitowoc County Mental Health Coalition. With that coalition, our focus has been on increasing the community's awareness of the benefit of peer specialists.

One of the major concerns identified in our study was that individuals with dual diagnoses, such as alcohol and drug issues as well as mental health issues, do not always receive adequate services to address all their needs. This is an especially timely topic because of the recent increase in drug addiction locally. On **March 10, 2016**, we will be sponsoring a panel discussion on best practices in treating dual diagnosed individuals. The event will be cosponsored by our local NAMI chapter (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) The panel will consist of providers who focus on treating this population and can educate the community on what treatment is most effective. More information about this event will be available after the first of the year.

The League Mental Health Committee: Mary Wallace, Linda Gratz, Maureen Crowley, Nancy Slattery, Darlene Wellner, Marilyn Sontag, Susan Lind, Ceil Held

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership list and the phone tree are now complete and will be sent by e-mail and regular mail to all of you. Thank you so much for cooperating and renewing your membership in a timely manner. I'm sorry that there was a delay in the preparing of the list.

Also, if there are any of you who have been a **continuous paying member of League for 50 years, please** let Cathy Cole know either through e-mail or by phone. My e-mail is as follows: cathyanddan@lakefield.net. We do have one member who qualifies in this category and she is **Modesta Olson**. She is a very informative person who can give you a history of the League. Since we have one member, we thought there might be a few more of you out there.

If you are not receiving the newsletter or other information from the state, and nation, please call Cathy Cole at (920) 553-8757.