

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

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Calendar of Events

11/10	Suffragette Movie
11/19	Issues Briefing
12/05	2-1-1 Meeting sponsored by United Way
12/05	Annual Christmas Party at the Grinde's
01/09	Board Meeting at 4 pm
01/19	Poverty Report – Housing Issues
02/06	Great Decisions Begin
02/24	Children's Mental Health

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Dear League Members,

Many have asked how I feel about the election results. “Disappointed” comes immediately to mind as the results leave us without the much anticipated first woman president. Though many talk about “fear” as an emotion coming to the forefront, I think that the League and its work allows me to move very quickly to “motivated” and “challenged.” We know that the Constitution does not allow for quick and radical changes to laws and governance promised during the campaign. We know that the system of “checks and balances,” transparency and public input in the government will serve us well to monitor and react effectively as citizens and League.

We should be “motivated” to be ever more vigilant as the executive branch prepares for the transition and the new government. We should be “motivated” to continue our work in educating and informing the citizens in our communities about their role in Democracy. Our “challenge” is as always, to assure that, through our League work, the Constitution is followed and thoughtful governance is practiced in the best interest of ALL.

Sincerely,

Jaci

LWV WI ISSUES BRIEFING

On Saturday, November 19th from 8:30 am – 2 pm at Crowne Plaza Madison, the State League will present Key note Speaker Michael Wagner, who will talk on the Lessons of 2016 Future Voter Advocacy. Also, “The Case for Driver Cards for Immigrants”; “Protecting our Natural Resources Through Our Inter-League Organizations” will be discussed.

2-1-1

The United Way of Manitowoc is inviting all League members to a meeting with Lisa Smith, who is the United Way Consultant for 2-1-1 which is an information and Referral service that links people in need of health and human services assistance with the appropriate providers, 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day and you can speak to a trained Specialist to assess your need in rent assistance, food, utility assistance, housing services, and health-related services. This Specialist will help you find services and will do the needed follow-up to be sure you received services.

All League members are invited and you are encouraged to bring anyone who you think should know about this service in the community. United Way is interested in encouraging the use of this state wide service.

This meeting will be held at the Manitowoc Public Library on December 5th at 10:30 am-11:30 am. All members of the Poverty Study Committee are encouraged to attend.

SOCIAL GATHERING

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 5th at 5:00. 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 REPORT – HOUSING ISSUES

On Thursday, January 19th, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Manitowoc City Hall, a panel discussion will be held on the impact of housing on family stability in Manitowoc County. The Panelist will include: a shelter director, an agency director, a landlord, and a low income individual who has experienced housing issues.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON CHILDREN 'S MENTAL HEALTH

Our Mental Health Committee is planning a public event on Children's Mental Health. The date is **Thursday, February 24, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Manitowoc City Hall**. There will be a panel discussion on current services for children as well as a look at areas where more help is needed.

In addition, the committee is updating our 2013 study on mental health. At the February event, we will discuss positive developments that have occurred in the last few years in Manitowoc County and highlight continuing areas of need.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will return on **Monday, February 6th at 6:00 pm at the Manitowoc Public Library**. There will be eight topics that will be discussed every Monday evening.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

All members should have received their latest and newest membership list and phone tree list. We have two new members: Jeanne Satori and Angela Zar. We welcome you into our League and hope that we get to see you at our meetings.

VOTER REGISTRATION

During this fall, we registered over 55 people in the Manitowoc and Two Rivers Communities. We were at both libraries, UW-Manitowoc, Silver Lake College, Lincoln High School and other locations. I want to thank all the dedicated League members who worked at these sites: Johanna Worley, Carol Benthien, Jaci Collins, Carol Wergin, Nancy Slattery, Mary Wallace, Anita Rappe, Jean Rausch, Ann Larson, and Connie Hendries. We were there to support and answer any questions that came to us. Thank you again for your time and patience.

League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

Mission

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government regarding issues affecting Lake Michigan watershed

The LWVLMR board has four representatives from each state surrounding the lake. The board meets four times a year and one of these meetings includes their annual conference.

Strategic Planning Assessment:

The LWVLMR's Planning committee has recently completed a survey of over 2000 people. The purpose of the survey was to create a five year plan to guide the work of the organization in the coming years.

League members and interested people were asked what their main concern about the environment was...Climate Change impacts on the great Lakes region ranked most important. This was followed closely by national regulatory issues regarding water, habitat restoration and wildlife protection, agricultural runoff/nutrient pollution, urban flooding, and storm water concerns.

The Annual Conference:

This year the Annual Conference for LWVLMR met in Porter Indiana on Oct 14th and 15th. Porter is located very close to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Dunes State Park. Together there is over 15,000 acres of beaches, prairies, wetlands, savannas and forest. The dunes are massive mounds of sand reaching 200 feet in height. This area is a beautiful place to visit and a great asset to the community. It is the home for many species of wildlife and also brings in visitors to the area from all over the country...

Several field trips to the dunes were available throughout the weekend along with speakers from the area. The topics covered included wetlands, watersheds, invasive species, native plants, and developing partnerships with other environmental groups and community organizations.

This conference was a nice way to begin my work as a Wisconsin Representative to the LWVLMR. It was wonderful to be surrounded by so many women who are working to protect our waters.

Submitted by Bev Rawling,

More information is available at www.lwvlmr.org and on Facebook

