

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER**

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Calendar of Events

12/08	Christmas Party
01/05	Board Meeting
01/???	Move to Amend

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Dear League Members,

We want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. We have so many things to appreciate and to give thanks. First, a great big Thank You to all of you, we would not be able to put on the programs that we do if it were not for the time and energies that you give to support all of our endeavors. You are truly a remarkable group of people and I am very lucky to be part of such a wonderful organization such as ours.

We have had a very busy fall. It started in August with getting trained to register people to vote and to participate in the Two Rivers Community Day. We registered voters at several schools, colleges, and a variety of locations. We presented a program on the Referendum and a Meet to Greet the Candidates. Now, we are in the process of getting a speaker to inform the public on the Move to Amend issue sometime in January. We have gotten speakers for Great Decisions for the February and March Monday series to be held at the Manitowoc Public Library. The topics are just as diverse and timely as they have always been. It should be something not to miss.

As you can see by the title, this is the last newsletter that you will receive for the year of 2014. We will be having our Christmas Party in lieu of a program. I hope all of you will consider joining the board to celebrate.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and we will be back to business in January 2015.

Sincerely,

Cathy

MOVE TO AMEND

Move to Amend is the National Campaign to abolish corporation personhood and defend democracy. Please go to the website entitled, Move to Amend. This website will give further information that you will need to fully understand why we are having a program to inform and educate the public on this issue. We will let you know in the January Newsletter when we will be having a speaker to address the need for this campaign.

Thank You.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

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 8th 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. A big thank you goes to Julie and George for opening up your home to all of us.

MANITOWOC SCHOOL REFERENDUM

I want to thank all of you for contributing to the success of that meeting. We had a great turn out. Marcia Flaherty and Ken Mischler gave a wonderful power point presentation on the schools needs. The questions from the audience were very direct and to the point. I want to thank Comcast for televising the program and for presenting it several times on local cable. Thank You.

Cathy Cole

MEET AND GREET THE CANDIDATES

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the Meet and Greet the Candidates event a big success! The candidates who participated were very pleased with the opportunity to present their views and personal information and to have the program re-run on local cable. So, to those who brought food, coffee, equipment, utensils, banner, name tents, all the other necessary items and operated the video camera, a hearty thank you! Connie Hendries

MEMBERSHIP

Sandy Bast has recently renewed her membership with League. She was a member and a former President of the League. We are all very happy that she has decided to renew her membership.

ISSUES BRIEFING IN MADISON ON OCTOBER 4TH, 2014

Six League members attended the Issues Briefing in Madison on October 4th, 2014. Jaci Collins provided the following report:

Motivating Women to Participate in the 2014 Election

Challenges for County Government in Wisconsin. There are growing needs, diminishing resources, revenue limits, cuts to state aid, legislative barriers, the cost of incarceration and the need for community programs after incarceration.

Andrea Kaminski: At least 10% of the population will not have the needed ID to vote; consider being an Election Observer.

Protecting Our Waters: We Are All in the Same Canoe. Ten percent of babies born with elevated mercury toxicity due to ground water contamination caused from mining. Virginia, Illinois, and Wisconsin are targeted for development of mining.

State of Education in Wisconsin: Funding formula broken; top influence in education is positive relationship with child and adult/family; poverty and race continue to impact achievement gap; WI School Report Card highly rated; options in HS include AP, IB, Youth Options and Industry Certification.

Ensuring Free, Fair and Accessible Elections in Wisconsin: Elizabeth MacNamara, President of the LWV of the United States.