

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
OCTOBER through DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

Calendar of Events

10/24 Immigrants in Our Midst
11/05 Board Meeting
12/02 Social begins at 5:00 pm

Dear League Members,

Please note that the newsletter is covering October through December of this year due to the lateness of this publication.

We opened the year with a presentation of Susan B. Anthony presented by the Heritage Players. We had around 35 people in attendance at the Manitowoc Library and we were able to have a brief meeting after the performance.

At that time, we were able to announce the next two events that we were having in Manitowoc County and promote the League. Thanks to our historian Julie Grinde, we were able to display Newsletters dating back to the sixties. We had our updated local program handbook on display and we cited various positions that the League endorsed and encouraged to better our community.

Since this is the last Newsletter for the year of 2019. The board would like to wish all members Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

I will be sending out the next newsletter in January 2020.

IMMIGRANTS IN OUR MIDST

Immigrants in Our Midst an evening sponsored by RUTH and Lakeshore Pax Christi.

October 24, 2019 6:30 - 8:00 pm at St John's Place (Lower Level)

1501 Marshall Street, Manitowoc WI.

The evening will begin with Pastor Matt Sauer's testimonial of his recent experiences at the southern border, followed by Attorney Tony Locke, Norma Medrano and Carrie Redo sharing local immigrant experiences and stories. The evening will close with the Action Groups discussing next steps.

The public is invited to this and any future discussions.

OBSERVER CORP PLANNING GROUP

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County will be initiating an Observer Corp in the very near future. We discussed this possibility at our annual meeting and we asked our members if they would be interested in participating in this endeavor and we have now received word that 9 of our members are interested. Why have we decided that an Observer Corp is needed, and what would it do? We have realized that the local news media is no longer available to attend and report on governmental meetings in our community. As a result of this lack of coverage, citizens of our county are less informed regarding local policy issues and the decisions that are being made. An Observer Corps helps keep members informed about what is happening in our local governmental agencies. By regularly attending public meetings of these governmental groups, the Observer Corps' members keep elected officials aware of the organization's interest in local government and help all the organization's members be better informed citizens through the reports on those meetings.

We are planning on meeting in November to start the process in motion and are still open to new members joining our group. Members who have shown an interest in participating include: Linda Gratz, Sue Matezynski, Mary Wallace, Ceil Held, Cathy Cole, Erica Strauss, Nancy Slattery, Darlene Wellner, and Dolly Stokes. If your name is not on the list and you would like to participate please let Linda know at LLGRATZ47@gmail.com.

REVIEW OF OUR MENTAL HEALTH COURT FORUM

On October 3rd, the League along with RUTH and NAMI sponsored a forum on mental health courts. Mental health courts are a diversion from incarceration for individuals with mental health diagnoses who have become involved with law enforcement.

Attendance was great and showed that there is a lot of interest in this concept in our community.

Our speaker, Judge Donald Zuidmulder, described the positive effect their mental health court has had on Brown County. Police contacts and jail costs were drastically reduced. However, the most significant impact was on the court participants. Consistent medication, monitoring, support and positive feedback helped them be successful. In addition, other needs such as housing are addressed.

The League mental health committee will continue to gather information on how to implement a mental health court in our community and will provide additional community education on the issue in the future.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The march was a fun and exciting event. We had approximately 35 people in attendance. We gathered in the park across from the library, socialized for a short time and sang Earth Songs. We walked down 8th street, Washington Avenue, 10th Street, Franklin Avenue, and back to the park. One of the signs read “Honk for Climate Action.” We had lots of support with that one. There were several young people that attended from the Lincoln HS Green Team. They expressed an interest in working together on future events.

Bev Rawling has attended the Manitowoc Farmers’ Market asking people to sign a petition to support the LWV US statement urging them to act on climate change. The plan is to send the signed petition to all our political candidates.

LWV – WI

We have several League members attending the State Briefings meeting to be held on Saturday, October 19th, and they will be reporting on the important events in our January Newsletter.

LWV – LAKE MICHIGAN REGION

On October 25th, we have League members attending the annual Lake Michigan Region Conference. The members will report on this meeting in our January Newsletter.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORM REVISION

On October 17, the League offered to link up with the Wisconsin Election Commission Webinar. Some League members signed up to view this. Since next year will be a big voting year, it will be necessary to assist as many people as possible to register to vote. Both the Manitowoc Library and the Lester Library of Two Rivers are welcoming League assistance.

Further information on training will be forthcoming in the near future.

SOCIAL

On Monday, December 2, Julie and George Grinde will host our annual social. This is our time to rejoice and reflect on the past year. It is a time to reconnect with friends and connect with new ones. We are asked to bring an appetizer to this event and enjoy the company.

An invitation will be sent via e-mail to all members of League in November with important information as to the address of the Grinde's.