

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

09/21	Manitowoc/Sheboygan Watershed
09/26	National Voter Registration Day
10/02	Board Meeting
10/19	How Addiction Hijacks Our Brains & Our Lives
11/06	Board Meeting
11/09	LWV Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting
Tba	Movie: Before the Flood

Greetings from the President:

Welcome to the 2017-18 League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County!! The Board met this summer to plan the Issue Forums for the year. Committees are forming to organize public programs on such topics as: the environment, the effects of addiction on the brain, food security in Manitowoc, etc.

Details for these events will be posted in the LWV-MC website and Facebook page, the monthly newsletters as well as in the newspaper, radio and local electronic signs. Please be sure to extend an invitation to friends and neighbors to attend any of our public events and to even consider becoming a member of the LWV-Manitowoc County.

At the Annual State Convention held in June of this year, the LWV-MC was selected for second place in the Membership & Leadership Development Award competition. We received a certificate and a check for \$100 for this.

Thank you Jennifer Balma, who once again put together the nomination dossier and submitted it in late April. Thanks to Board members, Cecilia & Julie, and probably others, who were diligent about taking attendance at the events this year providing data for the nomination dossier. Of course, thank you ALL for participating in League events through studies, committees, attendance and more.

Jaci Collins, President

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MANITOWOC/SHEBOYGAN WATERSHED

At the June LWV-WI convention, the LWV-Manitowoc County was invited to participate in the “Watershed Literacy & Engagement Coastal Wisconsin” project. This is a collaborative project between the LWV-WI and the LWV-Lake Michigan Region and funded by the Brookby Foundation and Freshwater Futures. We were asked to assist with the updating of the 2008 EPA Watershed fact sheet and to hold a public meeting focused on our local watershed. Since we share this watershed with Sheboygan and they have a new league forming, we collaborated to update the local groups section of the fact sheet. The LWV-LMR set a goal of 100 watershed meetings being held to honor the 100th year anniversary of the League in 2020. Our contribution is the following program.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MANITOWOC/SHEBOYGAN WATERSHED

On Thursday, September 21st at the Manitowoc City Hall from 7 to 9 pm, the League will present a panel of qualified speakers who will talk on the status of the Manitowoc/Sheboygan Watershed. The panelists are as follows:

Titus S. Seilheimer, Ph.D., Fisheries Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant, UW-Manitowoc

Matt Kadow, Education Programs Coordinator, Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Seth Hoffmeister, Northeast Organizer, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

Jerry Halverson, Manitowoc County Conservation Department Director

A representative of the area environmental organizations is welcome to briefly talk about their group and any upcoming events.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

As you may or may not know, the League can no longer receive training to be Special Registration Deputies. Therefore, anyone of us can help people to register to vote by going online to MyVote.WI.gov. or have them complete the paper forms with the correct ID and proof of residency.

Tuesday, September 26th has been designated by the National League of Women Voters as National Voter Registration Day. The LWV-MC has attended the Two Rivers Community Day giving out voting information and promoting the League. The League participated in an open house at a local elementary school in Manitowoc distributing voter information. The LWV-MC will be participating in Community Day at the UW-Manitowoc on October 11th and 12th assisting young voters to register. Posters will be distributed at the various libraries, high schools, and colleges in Manitowoc County promoting registration.

At this moment, we do not have any primaries or elections coming up until next year, 2018. The next primary election is February 20th and the spring election day is April 3rd. We will have a partisan primary on August 14th and the general election will be held on November 6th.

MEMBERSHIP

I want to thank those members who have renewed their membership in such a timely manner. I am in the process of preparing the membership list and phone tree. I am still waiting for a few people to send in their dues or simply let me know if they do not plan to renew.

Mary Kempf is our newest member to the League. If you see her at any of our events, please introduce yourselves and welcome her into our League. We are happy that she elected to be a member of our League.

LWV-WISCONSIN UPDATE

Debra Cronmiller, President of the LWV-Wisconsin, held a recent conference call with local league presidents to update us on the state and national leagues.

The National League is in the process of self-evaluation, reorganization, and transitioning in to the soon to be second century of the passage of the 19th amendment and the formation of the league. This is a big process, but ultimately, it will allow the LWV-US to communicate more efficiently with state and local leagues and to be more responsive to the needs and League work being done across the country.

The big news from LWV-WI is that Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of the LWV-WI, will be retiring at the first of the year. Andrea's wonderful executive skills will be greatly missed, but she has agreed to remain the LWV-WI Board Secretary and our lobbyist.

The State Board has decided to name the Executive Director position to Erin Grunze, former director of Voter Education. Additionally, Alexandra Graff, Events Coordinator resigned this summer to return to do graduate work. The Board has decided to redefine job descriptions to create a Membership and Events Coordinator. This position was filled this summer by Ellen Penwell, a LWV member from Whitewater. The Voter Education position is yet to be filled. In fact, the Board has begun to fund-raise for this position. They would need \$70,000 for the position. Of this, the Board has already ear-marked \$35,000 from a bequest from the estate of Joan Young, Kewaunee County League to begin this effort.

Finally, we are lucky that a number of state and national League events will be nearby this year. The state Issues Forum will be in Madison on Saturday, October 28th. Details for this will soon be announced on the state website. The 2018 National League Convention will be held in Chicago, June 28th to July 1st.

STATE OF THE LAKE MICHIGAN CONVENTION – SOLM

The State of the Lake Michigan Convention is scheduled in Green Bay from November 7th to November 10th at the Hyatt Regency. The conference is

organized by the International Association of the Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) to provide a bridge between the research and policy communities.

Registration is open at this time. Blocks of rooms are available at 3 hotels:

Hampton Inn Downtown (Adjacent to the Hyatt/KI w/ covered walkway
Phone: 1-920-437-5900 (full breakfast and pool)
LWVLMR – 15 double queen rooms (2 beds) for \$109 for two people
Contact Kirsten Brennen

Quality Inn & Suites (located 5 blocks from the Hyatt KI)
Phone: 1-920-8771 Contact: Anna Espino
LWVLMR 15 Double queen rooms (2 beds) for \$79 for two people
Hot breakfast, pool.

Hyatt/KI Convention Center registration is open. SOLM participants are encouraged to book their room as soon as possible. \$119/night for a standard room. Phone: 1-888-421-1442 and reference the conference for a room rate.

Their program is available now on the SOLM website. Please note that the LWV-Lake Michigan Region is scheduled on their program on Thursday, November 9th. If you are interested and wish to attend, please visit this website:

<http://iaglr.org/sol/solm17/program> or www.lwvlmr.org

MEMBERS AT LARGE

As many of you may know, a new League of Women Voters Chapter has sprung up to Sheboygan since last November. In addition, a group of dedicated women who have labeled themselves the “Granny Caucus” have been broadcasting the news of women’s inequality and other voting issues here in Wisconsin.

Saturday, August 26th, was Women’s Equality Day, the anniversary of the signing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in the United States. This dedicate group, the Granny Caucus, put together a program which was presented at the Sheboygan Farmers Market Saturday morning. With mics and amps and accompanied by two guitarists, Bev Rawling and Anita Rappe, members of our

own League sang an array of “voting songs,” along with two speakers. It was received with applause from an enthusiastic audience.

The League of Women Voters of Ashland/Bayfield County has completed a comprehensive study on Income Inequality. It is a comprehensive read with proposed solutions. It is on their website: www.abcwi.org . The study is 75 pages long, but worth the time.
