

**MANITOWOC COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/18	Kick Off Gathering
9/23	National Voter Registration Day
10/04	Issues Briefing / LWV - Madison
10/06	Board Meeting
10/09	MPSD Referendum
10/16	Possible Forum

Hello, fellow Leaguers

In case you haven't heard, the new year for the Manitowoc County League of Women Voters has already started (with a bang.) I am your new president, and I welcome all of you to an exciting year of making Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, and our world a more informed place.

Our first encounter with the public occurred on August 1st at City Hall in Manitowoc. We had our first voter forum, and I certainly got my feet wet, trying to get it off the ground with the difficulties presented. First of all, Connie Hendries, our Voter Forum guru, had an accident and couldn't be moderator for the event. Luckily, Cathy Cole stepped in and did a marvelous job. That wasn't the only problem. Two of the four candidates running in the primary for the Senate refused to come to our forum. In addition, Charlie Mathews from the Herald Times Reporter also opted out. After a hurried committee phone session, we decided to go forward anyway. It turned out to be VERY well attended (standing room only) and was very well received. Whew!

We have many exciting events coming up this fall, and I hope you will all make an effort to attend as many of them as you can. Of course, there will be another voter forum in October, and we also have a couple of wonderful programs. The first will be September 18th with a Government Accountability Board speaker. It is our "Kick-off" event, and should be very exciting. Cathy Cole is coordinating it and more information will be forthcoming.

I thank you for your trust in me to keep this wonderful organization growing and exciting. Please try to participate in some way this year. Remember to check our website also for more information and updates as they occur.

With fond regards,

Anita Rappe

SEPTEMBER 18TH KICK-OFF

On Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 pm in the Manitowoc City Hall, Michael Haas will present an overview of the Government Accountability Board and unique changes in the law for Wisconsin Elections. He will discuss the status of Photo ID, the proof of residence requirements, rules for election observers, and changes in the in-person absentee hours and voting in nursing homes and adult-care facilities. He will be happy to take questions from the audience.

Michael Haas was appointed as Elections Division Administrator for the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board in January 2013. In that position, he manages a staff which administers and enforces Wisconsin laws related to elections and voting. Mike had served as Staff Counsel to the G.A.B. since October 2008. Prior to joining the G.A.B., Mike was a partner in the firm of Roethe Krohn Pope, LLP, where his practice focused on municipal law as well as general practice matters for fourteen years. He served as the lead municipal attorney for the Cities of Stoughton, Edgerton and Milton. Mike is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

This program is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

September 23rd has been designated by the National League of Women Voters as National Registration Day. League members who have been trained by Jennifer Hudon, Manitowoc City Clerk, will be registering students at Lincoln High School, Lutheran High School, Silver Lake College, and the UW-Manitowoc Campus. We will go to the colleges on Tuesday and Wednesday to accommodate the students' schedules.

MPSD REFERENDUM

On Thursday, October 9, 2014 at City Hall at 7 pm, Marcia Flaherty, Superintendent and Ken Mischler will conduct a meeting explaining the need for the referendum to maintain the quality of the School District. Questions will be answered immediately following the presentation. The public is welcomed and light refreshments will be served.

MEMBERSHIP

We have two new members added to our League Roster. Dolly Stokes and Tricia DeWitt have joined the League. Please welcome these two new members at our events. We are happy they have joined the League. They will be a wonderful addition to League.

As Chairman of Membership, I decided to utilize all the self addressed stickers that I receive and added an envelope to our letter, interest form and survey. I am happy to report that we have only six members who have not responded as yet to our mailings. If you wish not to renew your membership, please contact Cathy Cole at 553-8757 or e-mail to: cathyanddan@lakefield.net. Your attention to this matter would be appreciated. This is the earliest and most complete

response that we have had since I started League in 2006. This will help me to compile our mailing list and phone tree before October 1st of this year. Thank you so much for renewing your membership so quickly!!

I received 32 responses to the survey. I want to thank all of you who took the time to complete the survey. I promised that I would share the results of the survey with all of you. The Board will be given this information at the next Board Meeting. Your input was appreciated. The following information is as follows:

Question 1: Are there any topics or programs you would like to see the League pursue?

Answered Varied:

Continue Voter Registration

Continue to pursue Voter ID issues

Ask hard questions of candidates at forums.

Support Wisconsin application for a National Marine Sanctuary

Mental Health initiatives that come from the legislative Mental Health Task Force

Mental Health Committee would like to see a speaker on monies available to counties regarding mental health and the county's use of these funds.

Common Care – Should there be another program on this?

Integrity and conservation of ground water

Agricultural policy to preserve and protect small and mid-size farming

Truancy Issues in the public schools

Helping to increase the number of sexual assault prosecutions

Political history when relevant to today

Move to Amend

High Frequency trading and Wall Street

Planting of trees and provision of green space in Manitowoc

Membership informational events held at a bar/tavern, coffee shop, etc. that would bring in younger people to inform them about LWV and potentially recruit them as new members.

A program for expanding the acceptability and usage of alternative energy programs; i.e., nuclear, solar, wind, bio fuels, etc.

Question 2: When possible, the League schedules programs for all on the third Thursday of the month. Is this convenient for you? Most of you said **YES**.

We will try to use the third Thursday for each program. However, please note that in October we will have two programs. The first one will be on the MPSD Referendum and the second one will be a Candidates Forum on October 16th. Both programs are relevant to inform the public on issues prior to voting on November 4th.

Question 3: Do you enjoy attending a Saturday Brunch with a program? The majority of you said **YES**.

Question 4: Would you be interested in a printed membership booklet? The majority of you said **NO**.

Question 5: Are two events in one month too many for you to attend? The majority of you said **NO**.

Again, thank you so much for your time. This will help the board develop better programs that will be of interest to all of you.

At the May 2014 Banquet, Julie Grinde presented all of us with a 67 page handbook on Local Programs that we have conducted throughout the years. This was a labor of love on Julie's part and we thank her for her time and effort in compiling all this information. This booklet represents who we are as an organization and what contributions we have made to the welfare of our community. If you did not attend the Banquet and wish to receive this booklet, please contact Cathy Cole at 553-8757 or e-mail to cathyanddan@lakefield.net. If you wish to just look at the handbook on line, please go to our web site at: <http://www.lwvmanitowoc.org>.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAKE MICHIGAN REGION

The Annual Meeting will be held in Traverse City, Michigan on October 3-5, 2014. The first session, Nate Winkler's Dam Removal on the Boardman River begins at 8:00 Friday evening.

The presentations will touch on trends, food webs, conservancy, water studies, advocacy, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and the Boardman River. Field trips include the Dunes, a kayak/paddle trip, and the inland seas museum. If you are interested in attending, please register before September 25th at <http://www.lwvlmr.org>.

RECAP OF SUMMER EVENTS

This summer we had a forum with over 40 people in attendance. We had this taped and it was broadcast several times before the primary election. A special thank you goes out to Ed Rappe who operated the camera, to Julie Grinde our time keeper, Jennifer Balma, Anita Rappe, and Connie Hendries who coordinated the program in such a short time and to all the Board members who used the telephone tree to contact all League members and who brought all the treats to this event.

We want to thank Mary Wallace and Cathy Cole for participating in the Two Rivers Community Day. Since this was a blackout period for registering people to vote, we passed out information on what they would need when it was time to register.

We want to thank Nancy Slattery for participating in the annual Touched Twice event held at Roncalli High School on August 9th. We had a table of information for all citizens regarding voting rules, regulations, and dates available. Over 620 guests received a variety of services and all received a full meal.

Nancy Slattery and Cecilia Held attended Jefferson's Open House. They registered voters and gave out information on voting rules and regulations.

Thank you to all of our members for all that you do to make the League a viable presence in our communities.

If you are having any problems receiving the newsletter, please remember to go to our website since it will be listed or contact Cathy Cole at (920) 553-8757 or email, cathyanddan@lakefield.net

