

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER**

Calendar of Events

02/06 Great Decisions – Middle East Realignment
02/09 Candidates Forum
02/13 Great Decisions – Promoting Democracy
02/16 Privatization Introduction Meeting
02/20 Great Decisions – Mexico
02/21 Primary Election Day
02/27 Great Decisions – Cybersecurity
02/28 Board Meeting

Dear League Members,

We had a wonderful turn out for the Government Accountability Board presenter David Beurger and Jennifer Hudon, City Clerk of Manitowoc on Tuesday, January 24th. Approximately 35 members of the community came out to listen to the new Election Laws and other recent changes.

I wish to thank Jennifer Balma, Connie Hendries, Joan Kaeiser, phone tree callers, and all League members who helped to make this a very successful night.

Great Decisions is about to begin and will go on through March 28th. We have a very diverse agenda for these eight weeks that should enlighten and entertain us all.

Also, this week, we have a Candidates' Forum on Thursday, February 9th.

We hope to see many of you at these events.

Sincerely,

Cathy

VOTER PHOTO ID AND OTHER RECENT CHANGE

Jennifer Hudon, City Clerk of Manitowoc will be setting up classes for those interested in helping out with the April Elections. This year she will need many more people at the polls doing a variety of jobs. She will be contacting us to help set up dates for these training sessions. It is important to know that if you want to work at the polls this year that you should live in the City of Manitowoc. There are many League members, who expressed an interest in their membership form to assist in voter registration, and you will be contacted in the near future or you can call Cathy Cole at 553-8757 and you will be placed on the list.

CANDIDATES FORUM

The League is sponsoring a Candidates Forum on **Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m. at Manitowoc City Hall**. Primary election candidates for Manitowoc School Board will be featured and include Linda Gratz, Michael Herrity, Brad Miller, Tim Newberg and Helena O'Bright. Candidates for Manitowoc Aldermanic Dist. 4, Jim Brey, Joseph Mrotek and Adam Braunel, and Aldermanic Dist. 6, Eric Sitkiewitz, Raymond Geigel and Ben Hilburger will also participate in the forum. County Board candidates for Dist. 18, Pat Kohlman, Heath Miller and Al Hrudka, and Dist. 22, Mike Bauknecht, David Dyzak and Troy Geimer will introduce themselves but will not be part of the forum. A media panel consisting of Charlie Matthews of the Herald-Times, Bryan Lundberg of WCUB and Ted Zigmunt of WOMT will question the candidates; audience members will also ask questions. ComCast will telecast the forum live. Light refreshments will be served.

The primary election is **Tuesday, February 21st** and will require photo ID in order to vote.

Connie Hendries

PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County invites you to a public meeting to discuss Privatization of Public Services on **Thursday, February 16th at 7 p.m. at Manitowoc City Hall**.

Why is this issue important?? Government services are increasingly being transferred to the private sector at all levels of government. What are the positive or negative effects of this transfer of services, functions, assets, and power? What is the impact on communities when previous government services such as education, military, parks,

police and fire protection, prisons, public health and social services, public transit, road maintenance, waste collection, waste water treatment, and others are privatized? What will be the impact on taxpayer costs, quality of services, and accountability? How can essential services be protected so they are affordable to everyone? What guidelines should be considered when privatizing services?

Panelists include:

- . Ed Rappe, Manitowoc County Board member, and retired Lincoln High School History and Economics Teacher
- . Michael Slattery, Local farmer, International Financial Consultant, and Business Instructor at Graduate Level
- . Kerry Trask, Professor Emeritus of History, University of WI-Manitowoc and Civic Leader.

Light refreshments will be served. More information can be obtained on the Manitowoc League of Women Voters website, lwvmanitowoc.org. We ask League members to read the suggested material on Privatization. Questions for the study will be in the March Newsletter.

GREAT DECISIONS

The series is about to begin. We are all very excited to have such informative speak for each of our topics. The list of topics and speakers are as follows:

February 6: **Middle East Realignment** with Dr. Beth Dougherty, Chair of the International Relations Dept., Beloit College.

February 13: **Promoting Democracy** with Prof. Heinz Klug, Director of the Global Legal Studies Center, University of Wisconsin Law School.

February 20: **Mexico** with Dr. Druscilla Scribner, Political Science Department, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

February 27: **Cyber Security** with Charles P. Burki, Information Systems Director, Milwaukee Police Department.

March 5: **Indonesia** with Dr. Mary E. McCoy, Center for Southeastern Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

March 12: **State of the Oceans** with Dr. Richard Hein, Oceanographer, University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc.

March 19: **Exit from Afghanistan & Iraq** with Dr. Robert Ricigliano, Director of the Institute of World Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

March 26: **Energy Geopolitics** with Drs. Mark H. Bockenbauer and Wendy E. Scattergood, Geography and International Studies, respectively, at St. Norbert College.

The Great Decisions Briefing Book, which complements the speakers' presentations, is available at the Manitowoc Public Library Circulation Desk. The book, which offers several articles about each of the eight topics, is available for \$10.00. The cost of the book is regularly \$20, but is being supplemented by the Manitowoc Public Library Foundation so that more people will take advantage of the information that the book has to offer.

If you wish to meet the speakers earlier, all members are invited to join them at the Courthouse Pub at 4:30 for dinner. Members pay for their own dinner that can be as little as a bowl of chili. If interested, please call Marilyn Sontag at 682-8988 for reservations.

AT THE STATE LEVEL

Contact your legislator about AB 481/SB 386

This morning an Assembly committee will vote on AB 481, which would eliminate the requirement for high schools to work with local election officials to certify one person in each school as a special voter registration deputy. A Senate committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday for the Senate companion bill, SB 386.

Attached is the statement the state League submitted for the Assembly bill. We will bring a similar statement to the Senate hearing later this week.

Contact your state Senator and Assembly rep and urge them to oppose this bill, which eliminates a program that cultivates citizenship in high school students.

To contact your legislators, you may use the Legislative Hotline:

- In Madison: 266-9960
- Toll-free: 1-800-362-9472

If you are interested in attending the Senate committee hearing on Thursday, here is a link to the announcement:

<http://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/files/HearingNotices/12-02-09-1000-2011STRA-18437.html>

The Manitowoc County League of Women Voters recently received a “Thank You Note” from Melanie Ramey, President of the LWVWI for our \$100 donation for the voter ID lawsuit. If any of you wish to make a personal donation, please send your check to: LWVWI, 612 West Main Street – Suite 200, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4714.

Remember no amount is too small and will help further the cause of protecting voter rights. All donations are **tax deductible**.

LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2012 (NEW)

The LWVUS Board established the following as Legislative Priorities for 2012: Voter Protection, Campaign Finance Reform, Environmental Defense and Health Care Defense. In addition, these items were included on the LWVUS Watch List for 2012: Fair Taxation, CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), UN Support and Immigration. Items on the Watch List will be acted upon if the opportunity arises for League action, it does not interfere with action on an LWVUS Priority and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

The Board considered many issues and the responses from members suggesting Legislative Priorities. The decisions were based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made by members at the last Convention, member interest and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if necessary.

MEMBERSHIP

A big Thank You goes to Anita Rappe and the membership committee for sending out renewal letters and letters to possible new members with follow up calls and letters. We are now 61 strong. We appreciate the membership forms that all of you completed. We try to match your interest with our monthly events. Every one of you who have renewed and joined are important for the support and service that you are giving. We appreciate every one of you.

CONTRIBUTORS

We have recently received a contribution from Radosevich, Mozinski, and Cashman. Thank you for your continued support.

BOARD MEETING

Due to Great Decisions, we will have our Board Meeting on **Tuesday, February 28th** at the Church at 4:30 p.m. that evening. All members are invited to attend these meetings to see how decisions and events are made. We appreciate any input in regards to future programs that you would like to see.