

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

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Calendar of Events

January 24	Voter ID Information
January 30	Board Meeting
February 6	Great Decisions – Middle East Realignment
February 9	Candidates Forum
February 13	Great Decisions – Promoting Democracy
February 16	Privatization Overall Meeting
February 20	Great Decisions – Mexico
February 27	Cybersecurity

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Dear League Members:

First, I want to thank Julie Grinde for opening up her house for our Christmas Social. It was very generous of her and those who came had a wonderful evening. It was a time to relax and enjoy one another and appreciate the friends we have made throughout the years.

The holidays are over and a new year has begun. The Board has been busy setting up many educational and informational programs beginning with the Government Accountability Board Speaker and Jennifer Hudon, City Clerk of Manitowoc who will present information on Voter Photo ID. The Great Decisions series is about to begin. During this election year, we will have two forums scheduled in February and March both prior to the elections. We have a study on Privatization and the Mental Health Committee is still attending meetings and gathering information that will be presented to the League.

It will be an exciting new year for all. We look forward to seeing you at any or all of the events planned. And, as always, refreshments will be served at these events.

Cathy

VOTER PHOTO ID

On **Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 pm at Manitowoc City Hall** the Government Accountability Board will send a speaker who will present information about the new law, and how groups and their members can help make sure everyone who needs a photo

ID gets one. Jennifer Hudon, Manitowoc City Clerk, will talk about the problems that we will be facing in Manitowoc and how we can help in our area. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing many of you there at this timely meeting.

BOARD MEETING

Due to Great Decisions beginning, February 6 of next week, we will have our February Board Meeting on Monday, January 30 at 5:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church. As always, members are also invited to see the Board in action.

Thank you

Cathy

GREAT DECISIONS

The Manitowoc Public Library, the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County, Manitowoc Public Library Foundation, Friends of Manitowoc Public Library, Lakeshore Peacemakers, University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc, and Silver Lake College are proud to present the sixth year of Great Decisions beginning Monday, February 6 at 6 pm in the Balkansky Community Room. This series is free and open to the public. Last year more than 1,000 people attended the eight sessions. Regardless of weather conditions outside, inside there is always interesting and insightful discussion, as well as hot coffee and tea, and some tasty snacks. Please join us during this time.

This year's 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.

CANDIDATES FORUMS

The League will hold two candidates' forums in the coming months. The first will be prior to the February 21st primary election and will feature candidates for the Manitowoc City Council and Manitowoc School District. The forum will be **Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 pm at Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street, in the Council Chambers**. The second forum will be prior to the April 3 General Election, featuring candidates for Manitowoc County Board and City Council. That forum will be held Thursday, March 22nd, also at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Both forums will be telecast on Comcast. Questions from the audience will be taken. Light refreshments will be served.

PRIVATIZATION STUDY 2011/2012

On Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 pm at Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street, in the Council Chambers, there will be an overall meeting on Privatization at all levels, local, state and national/international. The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state, or local government services, assets and /or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. Questions from the audience will be encouraged. Light refreshments will be served.

HOT TOPICS

We have learned that the car ferry is about 99% finished in Manitowoc. If the **coal ash problem can be resolved**, the car ferry is absolutely essential to our local economy as it is suffering from a loss of manufacturing jobs and becoming more dependent on tourism. Please inform Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Tom Petri of this situation. Tammy Baldwin will be at Democratic Headquarters on Washington Street in Manitowoc this Tuesday, January 10 from noon to 1:15. Congressman Petri will be at the Lester Library on Thursday at 3:30 pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The following people and businesses have made significant contributions to our League. These contributions help our organization provide programs that educate and inform the citizens of Manitowoc County. We appreciate their continued support to our local League. If you see them or do business with these people, please thank them personally for their generosity and continued support. They are as follows:

Alpert & Fellows	Bank First National
Bast, Sandy	Courthouse Pub
Daum, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth	Investors Community Bank
Katz, Mr. & Mrs. Henry	Kurtz's Pub
Miller-St. Nazianz, Inc.	United Once Credit Union
Wellner, Don	Wergin, Carol
Tom & Virginia Bare	

We would also like to thank our Committee, Patricia Dodge, Kate Miller, and Cathy Cole for their time on our behalf.