

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



Calendar of Events

01/23/14	Redistricting Reform
01/27/14	Board Meeting
02/03/14	Turkey's Challenges
02/10/14	Energy Independence
02/17/14	Israel and the United States
02/24/14	Defense Technology



Dear League Members,

I want to take this time to thank Jaci Collins and her committee for a wonderful program that was presented on November 21st of last year. Marcia Flaherty spoke on the Common Core State Standards and Dan McGoldrick the LHS IB Coordinator and his students spoke on the benefits of the International Baccalaureate Program /Diploma Program. We had over 40 people in attendance. The students were very articulate and we could tell that they enjoyed the classes that they were taking.

A great big thank you goes to Julie and George Grinde who hosted our Christmas Party. They are such gracious hosts. It was so good to see many members of the league in attendance. It was wonderful to just visit with each and every one of you. It is our hope that the word will get out that this is a party that should not be missed!!

It is that time of year when the temperature drops that people start to hibernate and get a good case of "cabin fever." However, when you are a member of League, there is always something going on to get you out of that "funk." We start with Carolyn Castore presenting a program on redistricting and how it would affect voters in our area.

We then begin another season of Great Decisions!!! This is our 8th year and covers a variety of issues that are current and relevant to our world, country, county, and community. We have some familiar as well as new speakers presenting. The location and time is still the same.

Sincerely,

Cathy

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that I report that the League has lost one of its oldest members. Vera (Vickie) Mayer died of complications of COPD on Monday, December 30, 2013. She was a life-long member of the League and Manitowoc County Homemakers, and volunteered as a 4H leader and at Lakeshore CAP in the Juvenile Victim Offender Mediation Program. She was a member of the Lakeshore Peacemakers and the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Vickie was passionate about environmental issues and served as a board member of the Friends of Branch River, the Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA) and the Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership (LNRP). She worked with these groups for 10 years through the Manitowoc County Soil and Water Department. She was recognized for her work with awards from both the MCLA and the LNRP. The Friends of the Branch River honored Vickie by naming its your leadership program in her honor. To honor Vickie, the League is collecting donations to be made in her name to the Friends of the Branch River. If any of you wish to make a contribution, please make the check out to **FRIENDS OF THE BRANCH RIVER** and send it to me at 3816 Riverview Drive, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241. We will then send the check to FOBR in her name.

Thank you.

REDISTRICTING REFORM

On Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Manitowoc City Hall, we will have Carolyn Castore speaking on the subject. She is very knowledgeable and we will learn a great deal from her presentation.

Two proposals currently were introduced in the legislature last spring that would reform the way the state legislature does redistricting. The proposals would adopt a plan similar to that in Iowa, where a nonpartisan agency has drafted district maps for approval by the legislature every decade since 1981. The first iteration has been approved every time, and there has been no litigation. Iowa has compact districts and many more competitive races than we do, and the state has saved millions of dollars in lawyer fees that could be put to work for the people.

Yet, the majority leaders in our state legislature and the chairs of the committees to which the proposal have been assigned are stonewalling. They are refusing to hold a hearing despite persistent calls by editorial boards across the state. They are also ignoring contacts from hundreds of constituents, as we have learned from an open records request by the Center for Investigative Journalism.

The majority in the legislature changed the law in 2011, shutting out the input of local redistricting officials and commissions. Then they had a private law firm draw the state

districts behind closed doors. By the time the ensuing litigation concluded, the cost to taxpayers was \$2.1 million. Certainly the taxpayers deserve to have a say!!

Please join us to see what we can do. This is open to the public and all are welcomed. Light refreshments will be served.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions begins February 3rd and goes to March 24th. All meetings will be held at the Manitowoc Public Library beginning at 6 pm in the Balkansky Room. Light refreshments will be served. Books are now available at the Library. The topics and speakers for the eight-week program are:

- 02/03: Turkey's Challenges: Beth Dougherty, Beloit College
- 02/10: Energy Independence: Elizabeth Wheat, UW-Green Bay
- 02/17: Israel and the United States: Shane Jeffery McLaughlin, UW-Whitewater
- 02/24: Defense Technology: Kevin Kelly, UW-Law School
- 03/03: China Foreign Policy: Barrett McCormick, Marquette University
- 03/10: Food and Climate: William Bland, UW-Madison, Agriculture
- 03/17: Islamic Awakening: Joe Elder, UW-Madison
- 03/24: United States Trade Policy: Marty Farrell, Ripon College

See you there!!!

CONTRIBUTIONS/FUND DRIVE

This January the League will "kick-off" its fund drive. The money that we receive from this drive will help us to continue our programs with qualified speakers that will educate and inform the public on topical issues that pertain to our community, county, state and national levels. We will be sending out our letters in the near future, but if you know of someone who enjoys our programs such as Great Decisions, forums, and presentations on the care and quality of the Great Lakes, please give us that information or ask them to donate to the League directly by writing a check to League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County, Patricia Dodge, Treasurer, 1106 Park Row Blvd., Manitowoc, 54220. We appreciate your membership and your support.

Thank you.

ELECTIONS

After six years of being Treasurer for our League, Patricia Dodge has decided that it is time to hand the books over to someone else. Therefore, we will be looking for someone who would like to take on the position of League Treasurer. The position is for a two-year term and Patricia is willing to train and inform that person of the duties of Treasurer. Some duties are as follows:

1. Maintain checking and savings account at Associated Bank.
2. Maintain spreadsheet called Treasurer's Report. It lists all of the revenues and expenditures by month. Provide this information to the Board each month.
3. Maintain the Budget to Actual spreadsheet report and provide the Board each month.
4. Work with the Board to create the annual budget in April
5. File the 990 report with the IRS each year.
6. Complete the membership roster using the LWVUS website and member database each January. This is used to determine the dues sent to national each year.
7. Submit the membership LWVWI Education Fund each January. This is used to determine the dues sent to state each year.
8. Submit the Treasurer's Report at the end of the fiscal year to the state LWV office.
9. Receive all membership payments & make all deposits throughout the year. Pay all invoices.
10. Maintain the membership roster with names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers.
11. Send a receipt for all memberships and donations. Receipt must include correct language. Receipts can be sent by email but must be mailed for those who do not have email addresses.
12. Coordinate the annual fund drive.
13. Maintain the fund drive spreadsheet. We have history back about 10 years.
14. Send thank you letters to donors. (This could be delegated to Board Members.)
15. Submit lobbying expense report to the state league.

The person or possibly two people may want to take on the Treasurer's position would be on the board and attend the monthly board meetings. If you look at the duties and think that this is too much for one person, we could split the responsibilities. We could have a Member/Donor Treasurer who keeps track of the memberships, donations from the fund drive, and keeps the member roster up to date. The Financial Treasurer could work on the Treasurer's report each month, pay the bills, reconcile bank accounts each month, and set up the budget. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Patricia Dodge as soon as possible at 682-6744. She will be happy to talk to you about it.

Thank you.

