

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/03	Christmas Social
01/10	Movie "Patriocracy"
01/26	Mental Health Study Consensus and Brunch
01/28	Great Decisions Series Begins

Dear League Members:

The election season has finally ended and the season of thanksgiving is upon us. I want to thank the League members who gave of their time to help register voters, host and attend our forums, poll watchers, and poll workers. It took many man-hours, dedication, and perseverance to achieve the recognition and respect that we have from the people of Manitowoc County.

I am very thankful to be a part of such a dynamic group of people. I sincerely hope that many of you will attend our December Social on December 3rd at Julie Grinde's home at 5:30 pm. It is a time to reflect and to look forward to the rest of our year. We have a lot of great things planned and I don't want anyone to miss it!!

Please take notice that there will not be a December Newsletter. The Board and I would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Cathy

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Our Christmas Social will once again be at Julie and George Grinde's home. ALL members and their significant other are invited to attend this joyous occasion. It will be held on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 5:30 PM**. Board Members are asked to bring appetizers. This is a time to relax and enjoy visiting with one another. We value all of you and this is our way to show appreciation for supporting all of our endeavors.

Directions to Julie's house are:

Turn right on HWY 42 at Menards. Take the first right onto Victoria. Then left to Silver Hills. The address is: 6145 Silver Hills Drive, Manitowoc. Phone Number is 682-6747. See you there!!!

MENTAL HEALTH STUDY COMMITTEE

The Mental Health Study Committee has been working hard on a draft of our final publication. The Committee, which consists of Darlene Wellner, Marilyn Sontag, Linda Gratz, Ceil Held, Nancy Slattery, Maureen Crowley, Teri Klavokoske and Mary Wallace, has been meeting weekly and compiling the many interviews we have held. Based on that information, we are able to identify the many strengths, as well as, many opportunities to enhance local mental health services.

Once we are done writing, our next step is to hold a consensus meeting for the League membership. At that time we will ask for your input regarding the recommendations we arrived at. We tentatively hope to hold this meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2012 at 9:30 am at the First Presbyterian Church.

Based on your input, we will then complete the recommendation portion of our publication. We will present our findings at a public meeting of the Mental Health Task Force in March of 2013.

We look forward to sharing our work with you in January.

Mary Wallace and Linda Gratz
Co-Chairmen

PATRIOCRACY

Patriocracy is a timely film that seeks to answer the questions: How bad is it in Washington? Has the political environment always been this angry, this grid locked, this broken? And, what can we do about it.

Patriocracy explores the extreme polarization in America that cripples the country from tackling its most serious problems. Patriocracy drills down and illustrates the forces that drive a wedge into the middle ground of America and the solutions required to move forward. Americans are polarized and angry. In the crossfire, the loudest voices drown out reason and facts with fear and anxiety.

This film was directed by Brian Malone and is 90 minutes long. It features an all-star cast of America's most trusted leaders and journalists. **Please join us at 6:00 pm at the Balkansky Room at the Manitowoc Public Library on Thursday, January 10th. Light refreshments will be served during the viewing of the movie.**

GREAT DECISIONS

In June of 2012 the Manitowoc Public Library and the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County were recognized with the Frank R. Cella Memorial Award 2012. The award is to acknowledge five individual Great Decision discussion groups and share their contributions and examples with the rest of the Great Decisions network which numbers over 1,000 discussion groups.

We congratulate the Manitowoc Public Library and appreciate being part of this wonderful program.

Great Decisions will begin on **Monday, January 28th at 6:00 pm**. The eight topics are as follows: Future of the Euro; Egypt; NATO; Myanmar and Southeast Asia; Intervention; Iran; China in Africa; and Threat assessment.

More details will follow in the January Newsletter.

NOMINATIONS FOR LWV STATE BOARD

The state board needs new members each year. It is a long time since our League has been represented, in fact not since the 70's and 80's with myself, Darlene Wellner in the 70's and Marilyn Kern in the 80's. We now have a much stronger, more active league and could make real contributions at the state level and also bring back new ideas to strengthen our League. In terms of our advocacy on issues and protection of voter rights our organization has never been more valued and needed. We can all be very proud of the recent League contributions to securing voters rights at all levels of government.

I hope that you might consider yourself as a potential state board member. Call me at 682-9466, if you are at all interested and I will tell you what might be involved.

Thank you,

Darlene Wellner

ISSUES BRIEFING IN MADISON ON 10-13-12

Marilyn Sontag and Darlene Wellner attended the annual Issues Briefing this year. Both agreed it was one of the best ever.

Speakers provided timely information on some of the most important issues facing Wisconsin and the country. It concluded with our national president, Elizabeth MacNamera, speaking about the work of Leagues all over the country in fighting back Photo Voter ID legislation and other restrictive legislation making it difficult for qualified voters to vote.

Joel Rogers, Director, Center on WI. Strategy commonly known as COWS, spoke to challenges facing our Wisconsin economy where median income for 4 person families has dropped from \$84,500 to \$76,000 from the start of the decade, after 60 years of steady growth each decade. He outlined the growth of poverty level jobs, increase in inequality, reduction in manufacturing and the effect on education in Wisconsin. Rogers, a University of Wisconsin, Professor of Law, Political Science, and Sociology has been identified by Newsweek magazine as one of the 100 living Americans most likely to influence politics and culture in the 21st century. He not only clearly identifies the problems but also provides solutions. He has been cited by Glenn Beck as the “wildly powerful...wizard” of American progressive politics.

Helen Marks Dicks, Advocacy Director of Wi.AARP spoke of their efforts to safeguard and strengthen Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid for future generations.

Elizabeth Wheeler, staff attorney for Clean Wisconsin and League Legislative Committee member spoke of potential environmental threats from mining legislation likely to be advanced after the new year.

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to welcome new members to our organization. They are: Dr. Giora Katz, Peggy Bolle, Nancy Hillmer, Mary Sipiorski, Sue Matczynski and Paul Vidas.

We are very happy you have joined and look forward to seeing you at our many events that will be coming in January 2013.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF LEAGUE: Any member can attend our board meetings. We start at 5:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church on the first Monday of every month. We will change our board meetings for February and March so that we can attend Great Decisions, but an announcement as to when will always be placed in the newsletter. We discuss many issues and decide upcoming events. If you are interested, please come and watch the board in action.

