

**MANITOWOC COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER**



Calendar of Events

11/21 Topics in Education
12/02 Social
01/06 Board Meeting



Dear League Members,

I want to thank all of you who have renewed their membership and continue to support our League. For those of you who have not renewed your membership, this is your last newsletter. As of **November 30, 2013**, your name will be removed from our roster. Your e-mail address will also be removed and you will no longer received updates from the State and National Leagues.

During this month, someone tried to “unsubscribe” from the State and National updates that were forwarded to you from me. What that person did was to UNSUBSCRIBE me. If you wish not to receive these updates, please let me know and I will remove your name. Fortunately, I was notified and could subscribe again so nothing was lost.

I have sent a separate e-mail with a poster attached announcing, Topics in Education. Jaci Collins has worked very diligently putting this program together. Both topics are HOT items in our area. It will be a very interesting and informative evening. Those of you who have received that e-mail pass it around to all.

We will be having our annual Social on December 2nd. This is open to all members. It is at Julie and George Grinde’s home. They welcome all into their house and are very gracious hosts. Please come and join us for some Christmas Cheer.

Now, that the membership drive is over you will be receiving an updated membership list and a new phone tree. This will be sent sometime in December.

The Board wishes all of you a very **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!**

Cathy

TOPICS IN EDUCATION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 7 TO 8:30 PM AT MANITOWOC CITY HALL

What is new in education? Come for an update on the latest topics in education.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a consistent, clear understanding what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. (<http://www.corestandards.org/>) With implementation in full effect for the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Standards, Marcia Flaherty, MPSD Superintendent will update us about CCSS and the preparations for the assessment phase to begin in 2014.

The International Baccalaureate Program (IB) Diploma Program (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepares students, aged 16 to 19 for success at university and life beyond (<http://www.ibo.org/diploma/>).

MPSD Lincoln High School has been designated an IB World School since 2007. Dan McGoldrick, LHS IB Coordinator will describe the IB Diploma Program and how it is impacting the lives of students at Lincoln High School.

SOCIAL

ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013, we will be having our annual social at the home of Julie and George Grinde. Julie and George are wonderful hosts and welcome **ALL MEMBERS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS TO ATTEND**. The Board supplies appetizers and beverages. This is an evening when we do not talk business and gives us an opportunity to get together with new and old members. For those of you who want to get to know other members better, this is the perfect opportunity. The social will begin at 5:30 pm. Please join us on this festive occasion. It is the most enjoyable way to kick off the Holiday Season.

DIRECTIONS TO THE GRINDE'S HOME:

From Calumet heading towards Menards, turn left onto WI-42/WI-42 Trunk S, Turn right onto Victoria Drive, Take the 1st left onto Valley Drive, Take the 2nd right onto Silver Hills Drive: the address is 6145 Silver Hills Drive

See you there!!!

REPORT FROM THE LMLWV

The Lake Michigan League of Women Voters had their Annual Meeting on October 15-17, 2013 at Blue Harbor Resort, in conjunction with two other organizations involved with Great Lakes issues. They were: State of Lake Michigan (SOLM) and Great Lakes Beach Association (GLBA). This joint conference brought together public officials, professors, businessmen, and interested citizens concerned with our great resource the Great Lakes.

The LMLWV held their meetings entirely on October 15th, with a plenary session starting at 1 PM. It was decided that the emphasis of our efforts and study this coming year would be on watershed, and the combined sewage overflow problem. Invasive species would take a back seat, as studies have shown that they are not the threat we thought they would be ----- at least for now.

After a wine and cheese social at 4:30 pm, we traveled to the Sheboygan Yacht Club for a wonderful dinner and a presentation by the Ripon LWV about the pollution to the rivers in their area by the mega-farms runoff.

The next two days were filled with many programs offered by a variety of experts about the many issues concerning Lake Michigan, the Great Lakes in general, and especially the beaches. Some of the emphasis was on studies presented on the dredging efforts on several riverheads, especially the Sheboygan River. A tour was offered to those interested to see the results of the dredging process.

Another study of particular interest to us locally was the Green Bay Area. A portion of southern Green Bay was deemed a “dead zone” already, and it was predicted that in ten years, a large portion of Green Bay would be a dead zone if there was nothing done. The problem was two-fold; one being the phosphate, nitrate, and dissolved oxygen in the water, and the other problem was the rising temperature of the lake waters, due to global warming. Lake Michigan (and Green Bay) is not freezing over in late years. This was only a small part of the sessions offered.

The consensus of those attending was that it was definitely worth the time and money to join with the larger organizations concerned with Great Lakes issues to further our cause in the upcoming years. This conference will occur again in 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Rappe our representative on the LMLWV

SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES

Over the past two years, scientists have reported finding thousands of plastic bits – some visible only under a microscope – in Great Lakes water. Scientists believe some are abrasive “micro beads” used in personal care products such as facial and body washes,

deodorants and toothpaste. They're so minuscule that they flow through screens at waste treatment plants and wind up in the lakes, where fish and aquatic birds might eat them, mistaking them for fish eggs. They (the beads) also could absorb toxins. Because of their size and wide distribution, there's no practical way to remove the particles from the lakes.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is pressuring companies to phase out micro plastics quickly in favor of biodegradable abrasives such as grape and apricot seeds as the best way to deal with the problem. Additionally, the group is encouraging mayors in the eight U.S. states as well as Ontario and Quebec to urge residents to buy products without micro beads.

<http://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/4180855-great-lakes-cities-seek-action-on-microplastics/>

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Mental Health Committee has been busy this fall. Our main focus has been on trying to make a Drug court a reality in Manitowoc County. In late September, we sponsored a well-attended public meeting with speakers from Eau Claire County's Drug Court. We were also part of a group that wrote for a grant from the state to start a drug court in our county. This group included Judge Rohrer, an assistant DA, Probation and Parole and Human Services Personnel among others. We should hear whether we received the grant in mid December. In the meantime, this group of professionals with League involvement is working on forming a CJCC, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council that would oversee the court and increase communication amongst professionals.

We have also been involved with the Manitowoc Mental Health Task Force that is now under the auspices of Healthiest Manitowoc 2020. This group has almost completed a resource card that will be distributed in the community and provide information about important local resources. Another subgroup is working on Public Service Announcements to provide information about mental illness and resources to help. In addition, we continue to work on the recommendations from our Mental Health Study as well as to monitor legislation on mental illness at the state level.

Committee members are: Darlene Wellner, Linda Gratz, Maureen Crowley, Marilyn Sontag, Susan Lind, Nancy Slattery, Ceil Held, and Mary Wallace. Anyone interested in this issue is welcome to join us!!

