

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

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**Calendar of Events**

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| 10/01 | Board Meeting                        |
| 10/04 | Candidates Forum in Manitowoc        |
| 10/06 | Membership Kick-Off Breakfast Brunch |
| 10/11 | Candidates Forum in Two Rivers       |
| 11/04 | Board Meeting                        |
| 11/06 | Election Day                         |

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**Dear League Members,**

Welcome back!!! We appreciate all of the members who have renewed their membership and welcome new members. The Board has been busy setting up interesting programs for the year. Our official Kick-Off will be a Breakfast Brunch held on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see many of you to renew friendships and connect with new members.

It has been a very unusual summer for me and for many League members. League events and opportunities to educate continued all summer long. It started with the Recall Election. Kathleen Bernhart, Jayne Rulseh, and myself were official observers during that Election Day. Mary Wallace, Connie Hendries, and myself participated in Two Rivers Community Day, in August, we held a forum, and fifteen League members were trained in Voters Registration. These League members have been busy registering new voters at the colleges and universities, senior centers, Hope House, and local high schools.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our forums and many events during the year.

Cathy

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## **BREAKFAST BRUNCH AND MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF**

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County is excited to start the 2012-13 season with our Kick-Off Brunch on Saturday, October 6, 2012. We will meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 502 North Eighth Street, Manitowoc at 9:30 am for Brunch and an exciting speaker to follow. This year we are privileged to have Margot Peters, an accomplished and award-winning biographer, speak to us about the poet, Lorine Niedecker. Ms. Peters has a Ph.D in Victorian Literature and Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin. Her awards include, in part, nomination for a Pulitzer Prize in biography, five Wisconsin Library association awards, and induction into the Milwaukee Public Library's Wall of Fame.

Ms. Peters will focus her presentation on the life and poetry of Lorine Niedecker. Ms. Niedecker (1903-1970) was born and lived most of her life on Blackhawk Island near Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. She has been called America's greatest unknown poet. Ms. Peters' book "Lorine Niedecker: A Poet's Life" was released in the fall of 2011, and caught the attention of the prestigious Atlantic Monthly.

Lorine Niedecker was often compared to Emily Dickinson. Living far from New York in "remote Wisconsin," her work was ignored for many years. She was often frequently and frustratingly powerless in a world mostly controlled by men, but was tenacious in the pursuit of her calling.

After our presentation, we will have a discussion and description of our programs for the upcoming year. Please come and meet your fellow League Members. Bring family and friends and learn about another of Wisconsin's talented artists.

In order to complete our membership roster and our telephone tree, all dues should be sent to our treasurer by October 15<sup>th</sup>. The membership dues are still \$40.00 for a single member and \$60 for a couple. Send your check to our treasurer, **Patricia Dodge at 1106 Park Row Boulevard, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220**. We appreciate your continued support and participation.

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## **FORUMS**

On Thursday, October 4 at 7:00 pm at Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street, the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a Forum with Jim Brey and Paul Tittl.

On Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Two Rivers City Hall, 1717 East Park, the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a Forum with Andre Jacques and Larry Pruess.

Both Forums will be conducted in a similar manner. There will be a brief introduction from each of the candidates, three questions from the media, the floor will then be open to the public to ask questions to the candidates, and finally, closing statements will be made from each of them.

As always, light refreshments will be provided for those who attend.

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## **OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

I always try to include in the first Newsletter the new Officers and Board Members who are serving this fiscal year. These are the League Members to contact if you have a special request for a program or are interested in helping out on the various events that we have planned. We are always happy to hear from you and appreciate your support, input, and participation.

### **OFFICERS:**

Catherine L. Cole, President  
Patricia Dodge, Treasurer

Mary Wallace, Vice President  
Julie Grinde, Secretary

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Elected Directors: 2012-14

Jennifer Balma, Linda Gratz, Connie Hendries, Nancy Slattery

Elected Directors: 2011-13

Joan Kaeiser, Shelly Randerson, Anita Rappe, Marilyn Sontag,  
Darlene Wellner

Appointed Directors: 2012-13

Jacqueline Collins, Rachel Muchin Young

Many of you have completed your interest forms and sent them to our treasurer. We appreciate that you took the time to complete them and will try to contact you for something that you would enjoy contributing your creativity and efforts. For those of you who are undecided, there will be announcements in our monthly Newsletters for assistance on various projects and events.

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#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Along with the Monthly Newsletter, League information can be found on our website: [lwvmanitowoc.org](http://lwvmanitowoc.org).

If you wish to post something on the website, contact our Webmaster, Shelly Randerson at 683-2257.

If you wish to add something to our newsletter, please contact Cathy Cole, Editor at 553-8757.

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#### **THE POSITION ON PRIVATIZATION**

Last year, we met to look at the role of privatization on three different levels, city, state, and national. We answered questions that the National League proposed and sent in our responses. The results of our participation are as follows.

# LWV PRIVATIZATION POSITION

## Background

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue. Committee Chair Janis McMillen (KS) and her Committee: Diane DiIanni (TN), Carole Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA) and Ted Volskay (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

**Position** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;

- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state’s jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

Statement of Position as Announced by National Board, June 2012

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