

MANITOWOC COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/05 Annual Social 5:00 pm

Presidents' Corner



The voting is in and our Board has appointed Cathy Cole to replace Co-President Linda Gratz for the remainder of her term. This was a hard decision and I truly appreciate Cathy for stepping up to take on this responsibility and allowing me to become more involved in the Spring Election for Manitowoc School Board. I never realized how important the ability to be involved was to me until now. Being able to put up signs, donate, and actively support certain candidates is very important to me right now. Thanks to all of you for your support and understanding. I will remain on the board for the rest of my term, but I can still be active as a board member, but not as President.

Darlene Wellner asked me to share a couple of requests for help that she has received from people in the community.

- Theresa Collins a former League member who is moving out of state in the spring is looking for someone interested in providing child care for her 2-year-old son one day a week. Her phone # is 920-629-9166. As a League Darlene is looking at how we can support younger members to participate by possibly providing child care at meetings.
- A long-time tutor and leader of the One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners Program at the Manitowoc Public Library called and asked if any League members would be interested in teaching English to members of the community. There are currently 15 people waiting for mentors. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, you can contact Margo Meyer Literacy Coordinator at 920-686-3026.

Whitney Andrastek the Public Health AmeriCorps member working with our local NAMI organization is working on a project to support our Manitowoc County Warming Shelter by collecting and providing hygiene products for people staying at the shelter. They are looking for

small bottles of shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, brushes, combs, tissues etc. There will be drop off boxes at the Roncalli schools, and Bank First locations on 8th St., Custer St., and Dufec Drive.

Thank you everyone for all you do for League and our Community. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Leaguers interested in Prison Reform:

Please sign the petition and circulate it among friends and neighbors.

This is a very timely issue. Most people are aware of the dire conditions in Wisconsin prisons.

It is easy to get signatures. Wisconsin has the highest rate of incarceration in the nation. Let's act to change this.

Send your petition to any or all of the public officials listed. Even a few signatures will help.

Thanks,

Darlene Wellner, 920-682-9466

Nancy Slattery

Marilyn Sontag

**I will resend the petition form to all of you again in regards to prison reform.

GREAT DECISIONS TOPICS

Mideast Realignment

By Marc Lynch

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can

the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

Climate technology and competition

By Bud Ward

Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the “common enemy” of climate change?

Science across borders

By Mila Rosenthal

Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation’s national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

U.S. -China trade rivalry

By Jonathan Chanis

China’s economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

NATO's future

By Sarwar Kashmeri

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia?

Understanding Indonesia

By Charles Sullivan

Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world's largest democracies, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

High Seas Treaty

By FPA editors

Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

Pandemic preparedness

By Carolyn Reynolds

Looking back at the covid-19 pandemic, there are many

lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenge

Great Decisions will begin on February 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Balkanski Room at the Manitowoc Public Library. It will also be on line for those of you who do not wish to attend in person. The committee is in the process of obtaining speakers for each topic.

POLL WORKERS

Poll workers are needed for the upcoming elections. If you are interested, please contact your City Clerks. They really need your help. I have been doing this for some time and it is a long, but very worthwhile day.

MEMBERSHIP

I have sent out the list of members and results of the interest form to all members. The new members who have joined are: John Fease, James Sustman, and Cornine Weis. Welcome to the League. Thank you all for your continued support.

SOCIAL

On Tuesday, December 5th, we will hold our annual Christmas Social at the home of Julie and George Grinde. It will begin at 5:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer of your choosing. Further information will be forthcoming after Thanksgiving. Please consider attending this traditional gathering. It is a great evening to connect with all the members of the League!!

