

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY**  
**APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER**

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**Calendar of Events**

<b>04/20</b>	<b>Earth day</b>
<b>05/04</b>	<b>Board Meeting at Presbyterian Church, 5 PM</b>
<b>05/08</b>	<b>May 2021 Deadline of Newsletter Items</b>
<b>05/20</b>	<b>Published Newsletter with Results of All Listed</b>
<b>06/11/12</b>	<b>Virtual LWVWI Virtual Conference Meeting</b>

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Dear Fellow League Members,

We have made it another year without an actual gathering of our members. It is hard to believe that we managed to have Great Decisions and our presentation of the success of the Drug Court through virtual meetings. We have had to learn how to adapt and work with other organizations to publically inform everyone in our community about many issues that are still with us. Using the technology that is available has been an eye opening and learning experience. However, I hope in the future we will be able to publically meet with all of you again.

I am again going to ask all of you to e-mail me or mail to me in our May Newsletter your passing of our budget for 2021-22, a revision to our by-laws, and acceptance of our nominated officers and board members.

In this month's newsletter the budget will be presented, the revision to our by-laws will be printed and the slate of officers and board members will be presented for you. It is in our by-laws that all this information must be presented to all of you at least twice. If you have any questions or addition to what is presented, please contact me and I will get an answer to or an acceptance of any addition to you as quickly as possible. This information will be printed again in the May Newsletter. I will be asking all of you to vote to accept the 2021-22 budget, the addition to our by-laws, and the slate of officers and board members by May 20<sup>th</sup>. I will then write a brief newsletter of your acceptance of all.

We are hoping to have a general meeting outside sometime in early September of this year. The board will keep everyone posted to time and location.

## **REVISION TO OUR BY-LAWS**

The revision to our by-laws is a request from the LWV-WI to revise our Section I Types of Membership. This will be added as the first paragraph under Article III Membership: Section I Types of Membership.

“The LWVMC is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.”

## **MCLWV ELECTIONS, 2021-2022**

This is the time of year when we present next year’s budget, slate of officers and board members, and changes to by-laws. The budget is attached for those receiving hard copies. It will be sent by e-mail separately. The following 2021-23 slate of officers are: Secretary – Julie Grinde and no Vice President at the present time.

The Board of Directors for 2021-23 are: Mary Wallace, Marilyn Sontag, and Anita Rappe has decided to come back as a board member.

The 2020-22 officers and Board of Directors are: Co-Presidents: Nancy Slattery and Cathy Cole. Treasurer: JoEllen Gramling. Board of Directors: Jennifer Balma, Maureen Crowley, Linda Gratz, Sue Matczynski, and Bev Rawling.

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## **OUR OBSERVER CORPS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!**

Hi everyone, we have been so lucky over the last year to have excellent volunteers to cover our governmental body meetings in Manitowoc County, and get out valuable information to our members. However, several of our loyal observers have needed to resign from our observer corps and we are now looking for help to cover the County Board meetings. If you enjoy knowing what’s going on in county government and you have an hour to spare each month, we could use your help. The County Board meets once a month, generally on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Heritage Center, 1701 Michigan Avenue in Manitowoc.

However, the monthly April meeting will be on April 27<sup>th</sup> and the one after that will be May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meetings appear to be around an hour long and have been available on YouTube to watch. The County Board is planning on going back to in-person meetings in April and will still be available on YouTube. If we find more than one person to volunteer, you may only need to watch every other month. Please give me a call at 682-8373 or email me at [llgratz47@gmail.com](mailto:llgratz47@gmail.com) and we can discuss the details. It would be a shame to lose information on the county government, but our current volunteers can only handle so much. Thank you for considering this call for help. Linda G., Chair

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#### **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE: M. Wallace & L. Gratz**

The Mental Health Committee has been meeting via zoom and the committee members are excited to have our first in person meeting on April 21. We are continuing to work on a report on mental health courts and are over half way through our outline. Two graduates of Brown County's Mental Health Court have agreed to meet with us to discuss their experience which will be an important part of our report. We have been connecting with local stakeholders to assess their level of support and have partnered with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), including meeting remotely with their state staff person.

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**EARTH DAY:** Bev Rawling, CHAIR: Environment Committee

#### **Celebrate Earth Day 2021: Action for a Healthy Planet**

A healthy planet is not an option... It is a necessity.  
We all need a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health, and survival.

The science is clear we need to stop burning fossil fuels and start investing in a transition to renewable energy. Scientists are calling for a 50% reduction of fossil fuels in the next decade to zero emissions by 2050.

Our government gives billions of dollars annually to the fossil fuel companies through subsidies and tax credits. In March President Biden announced that he will include eliminating subsidies for fossil fuels in his recovery plan.

We can all find a way to make our planet a healthy place to live for ourselves and our future generations during this month as we celebrate Earth Day.

**Take Action Today:** contact President Biden.

Thank him for committing to end fossil fuel subsidies, ask him to follow through on his plan and to direct congress to end fossil fuel subsidies.

To contact the president send a letter, email, or call.

Email at [whitehouse.gov/contact/](https://whitehouse.gov/contact/)

Call with your comment at 202-456-1111

Send a letter to The White House,  
1600, Pennsylvania Ave.

N.W. Washington DC, 20500

Bev Rawling, [circleofsong@tds.net](mailto:circleofsong@tds.net)

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## **History of Earth Day, Julie Grinde**

In the 1960's there were not many laws to protect our water and air and there was not an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Gaylord Nelson was the Governor of Wisconsin during that time, served two terms and became known as the "Conservation Governor." After he was elected Senator in 1962, he proposed that a day be set aside for education in environmental issues... a Teach-In for the country to spotlight the environment and set a political agenda. Each community could address the issues that affected them and celebrate Earth Day in their own way. He persuaded Congressman Pete McCloskey, a Republican, to co-chair this event and hired a national coordinator to plan events across the country.

On April 22, 1970 Americans demonstrated in massive rallies to support a healthy sustainable environment. Over 20 million people including 10 million elementary and high schools and 2000 colleges participated. People across party lines, scientists, and people from all walks of life were part of the event and set in motion an environmental movement for change.

The EPA was created and countless numbers of laws to protect the environment were passed. Some included: Clean Air Act; Water Quality Improvement Act; Resource Recovery Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act; Endangered Species Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. In 1995 President Clinton awarded Senator Nelson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his role as the founder of Earth Day. Earth Day 1990 mobilized 200 million people in 141 countries that gave environmental issues a global stage. Ten years later Earth Day focused on climate change and clean energy. Over 5000 environmental groups and 184 countries participated.

Earth Day 2020 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the theme “climate action.” It went entirely digital for the first time and provided a global 12 hour live streaming music and speaker event. One goal was to build a new generation of environmental activists with millions of participants world-wide.

This year a **THREE DAY CLIMATE ACTION** (April 20-22) event will feature three separate climate action summits involving 1 billion participants and culminate in President Biden’s climate summit on Earth Day. This meeting will bring together world leaders to discuss the theme “Restore Our Earth.” For more information you can see [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) or earth day 2021.

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### **A HISTOTY NOTE FOR YOU....About Earth Day, J. Grinde**

All three levels of the League of Women Voters have been supportive of Earth Day since the first Earth Day in 1970. Senator Gaylord Nelson declared April 22nd as a time to celebrate our earth and its resources. According to a local news article in the Herald-Times Reporter, over 100 recycling projects in the county were initiated on the first Earth Day in 1970.

During the 1970’s and early 1980’s, a group of people from the University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc campus, members of the League and other community volunteers began to collect newspapers for our first recycling efforts in Manitowoc. Discarded newspapers were placed on city street corners to be picked up, brought to the center to be placed on a truck and sent to a recycling center outside of the county.

League does not have a written record of Earth Day events until 1990 when a city-wide celebration took place at the UW-Center. Susan Mudd, President of Citizens for a Better Environment, was the key-note speaker at this event sponsored by the UW, League and other community groups. The Fine Arts Room was filled with displays and exhibits about how to care for the earth. Children could display posters on the environment. The Lecture Hall had scheduled speakers to provide education to all who attended. Nine league members were on the committee which was chaired by Vicki Mayer and Cindy Jacobson. Over 200 people attended and enjoyed the family activities.

Each year from 1990 to 2002 the Earth Day event was held at the UW-Center on Saturdays or Sundays near April 22nd. These were sponsored by League, the University and sometimes other community groups. Speakers were doing demonstrations, involved in panel discussions or shared individual ideas about how to care for the earth. Family activities were planned including cleaning up the campus grounds and Silver Lake Park. Kite flying was popular and one year 100 kites were given away. In 2001 over 500 people attended.

In 2003 Earth Day was held at Expo and was combined with CleanSweep. Attendance was poor and the next year Earth Day was back at the UW-Center. This continued through 2009. The format always included speakers and demonstrations with many family activities and special experiences for children. Sometimes our league did water testing for people who brought in a water sample.

Then from 2010 to 2012 Earth Days were held at Silver Lake College. Speakers and 20 exhibitors provided information on composting, organic food, wildlife and wind energy. There was a Nature Hike, ground water testing and recycled art projects. The week prior to Earth Day, there was a community wide collection of electronic devices and expired medications by the students of Silver Lake College and Lakeshore Technical Institute. There was also a community rummage sale where people could recycle books and other items. Other activities included learning about alternative energy, face painting and flower planting for children.

The league usually had people sign petitions on state legislation regarding clean water and air and support for state funding for recycling and energy conservation programs in Wisconsin. We also provided information so people could see what legislative district they lived in and who the representative was for that district. For the next two years Earth Day was held at JFK Fieldhouse and then for the next 3 years Earth Day was combined with Healthy Kids Day and held at the YMCA. There were demonstrations, exhibits and music related to Earth Day and healthy

living. The league had an exhibit highlighting local water issues and information on living Green. Earth Day 2015 had over 350 people who attended.

When the YMCA was being remodeled in 2018, the community did not sponsor an Earth Day but supported the Earth Day events at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ in Two Rivers. A representative from Woodland Dunes and one from the Nature Conservancy were the main speakers. Exhibits, food and games were available and League had a display on the history of Earth Day.

In 2019 the League co-sponsored the Earth Care Festival at the UW-Center. There were 35 exhibitors and a speaker from the Wisconsin Sea Grant. Some of the exhibitors included Great Lakes Conservancy, Friends of Branch River, Woodland Dunes, LTC Wind Energy Group and the Butterfly Lady. Activities for children included games, crafts and prizes.

Since the first Earth Day, league members participated in newspaper recycling and since 1990 have co sponsored Earth day activities for the community every year.

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## **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

Our 2018 Poverty Study recommended the need for a Boys and Girls Club in our communities. Manitowoc and Two Rivers are the only two cities with a population larger than 10,000 in Wisconsin that don't have a Boys and Girls Club. A capital fund drive is in the process of raising \$1.5 million to renovate a site on Manitowoc's southside. If you want to make a contribution, send your donation to Boys and Girls Club, P. O. Box 756, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54221-0756. If you have any questions, contact Darlene Wellner at 682-9466.

