

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02/08	Manitowoc-area Homelessness, Part II
02/08	GD: The End of Globalization
02/09	WOMT Forum – District 3
02/10	WOMT Forum – District 7
02/15	GD: Persian Gulf Security Issues
02/16	Spring Primary
02/18	Crisis Cops: Creating Communities of Care
02/22	GD: Roles of International Organizations
03/01	GD: China's Role in Africa
03/08	GD: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
03/15	GD: The Korean Peninsula
03/22	GD: The Global Supply Chain & Nat'l Security

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Dear League Members:

Winter has really arrived here in Wisconsin with this arctic blast of cold air! Fortunately, spring is just around the corner, so hang in there for the next few weeks and we should see a change in temperature.

In January, we had a special issues meeting on the Community Impact of the Drug Court and we had over 300 people who tuned in to see portions or all of the meeting. Then, Great Decisions kicked off February and again, we had more than the 100 people who usually attend tune in to the library's facebook page or youtube. I will continue to send the library's facebook address in the newsletter and in e-mails as a reminder.

Many of us are getting the COVID 19 vaccine and I am hoping that by early fall we can gather publicly again. The Board continues to meet, as do many of our committees through ZOOM. Please continue to read the Newsletter and e-mails that is sent to all of you.

Cathy

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Drug Court Virtual Forum was a big success due to the wonderful organization of Tim Gadzinski from the Manitowoc Public Library and the excellent presentation by Jason Latva, Drug Court Coordinator. He formed a panel that included Judge Dewane and three drug court participants. The three participants stole the show with their honest, brave, first-hand accounts of their struggles with addiction. Thanks also to NAMI and RUTH for cosponsoring the forum and contributing to Chamber Bucks to thank the three participants.

Our next project is to write a report on Mental Health Courts which we hope will serve as an impetus to get such a court for Manitowoc County. We have agreed on an outline and assigned parts of the task. We appreciate the participation of Kathy Protzman of NAMI. She has connected us with state level NAMI staff that support mental health courts and will be meeting virtually with us in February. We will keep the League apprised of our efforts.

MANITOWOC AREA HOMELESSNESS – PART II

The Lakeshore Continuum of Care, a coalition of agencies that aims to end homelessness in the area, will be hosting the director of the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care, Carrie Poser, for a two-part online series on homelessness in the area.

Part two will take place from 1 to 3 pm on February 8th and will look at local data that can help identify gaps, strengths, and begin discussion about next steps needed to strengthen coordinated efforts.

To get a link to register for the meeting, call Lakeshore CAP at 920-682-3737 or go to the Lakeshore Community Action Program's facebook page for an event link. For more information, please contact Kate Markwardt, chairwoman, at 920-686-8703.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

On February 2nd, early voting began for the spring primary. If you haven't received your absentee ballot, call your local city clerk to request one. You must request this ballot and be guaranteed that you will receive an absentee ballot for the year. Go to myvote.wi.gov to view the ballot. The actual date to vote in this primary is Tuesday, February 16th. To view candidate information, go to VOTE 411.

People in Manitowoc will be voting for the School Board, State Superintendent, and aldermen in Districts 3 and 7. WOMT will be hosting a forum for District 3 on Tuesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 10 for District 7. Both forums will be held at 1:00 pm.

GREAT DECISIONS

The first Great Decisions presentation was a huge success! We usually have 100 people in attendance at the library, but with the virtual presentation we had more than 300 people tuning in during the streaming. For those of you who are interested in the book that is usually published, the library will be receiving them soon. Call the Manitowoc Library to see if they are available and ask how to obtain it.

To view the Great Decisions presentations go to:

www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary or the library's YouTube channel.

02/08: The End of Globalization: Alise Coen (UW/GB)

02/15: Persian Gulf security Issues: Beth Dougherty (Beloit College)

02/22: Roles of International Organizations in Global Pandemic: Heinz Klug (UW/Madison)

03/01: China's Role in Africa: Martin Farrell (Rippon College)

03/08: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic: Elizabeth Wheat (UW/GB)

03/15: The Korean Peninsula: David Fields (UW/Madison)

03/22: The Global Supply Chains & Nat'l Security: Amulya Gurta, (UW/GB)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTEERS OF WISCONSIN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

As part of the closing months of the League's 100th year birthday, the state office is initiating an Oral History Project to honor the over 90 Lifetime League members in Wisconsin who have been in league 50+ years. One of the goals is to record personal reflections from league members about why they joined, why they stayed in league and their message to prospective and new League members. Another goal is to share their perspective of what the League has done well and where it should direct its energy going forward.

Our League has 5 Lifetime League Members: Modesta Olson, Darlene Wellner, Connie Hendries, Marilyn Sontag, and Julie Grinde.

Our members will share information about how our league educated the community through our studies about Interstate 43, Nuclear Energy in Manitowoc County, the Manitowoc County Jail, Day Care Needs in Manitowoc County, Mental Health Services and our most recent study about Poverty and Addiction in Manitowoc County.

Local studies and projects can result in real changes in the community such as establishing the Municipal Court for the City of Manitowoc, the Drug Treatment Court for Manitowoc County, the Great Decisions Program, and continued work to improve Mental Health Services for our people.

OBSERVER CORPS

A big thank you goes out to all who completed the brief survey. The results were then brought to the committee and the board. All who completed the survey were pleased to receive the information from the various community and county meetings that are held throughout the month. The only suggestion was that the length of the reports was overwhelming with information and could it possibly be shorten. The Committee will attempt to use bullet points on issues reported to consolidate the information.

CRISIS COPS: CREATING COMMUNITIES OF CARE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Join the LWV of Dane County for a special screening of the 25-minute version of the award-winning HBO documentary *[Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops](http://www.ernieandjoethefilm.com)*, with follow-up presentations by and audience discussion with Joe Smarro, one of the “crisis cops,” as well as Dane County law enforcement officers who are implementing trauma-informed care strategies, and a guest with mental health crisis lived experience. The *Ernie & Joe* documentary, produced and directed by Jenifer McShane, follows two police officers with the San Antonio Police Department who are diverting people away from jail and into mental health treatment, one 911 call at a time. Registrants for this event will have the opportunity to view the 95-minute version of the film before or after the forum.

For more information about the film, please go to:
www.ernieandjoethefilm.com

The announcement was sent earlier this month and I will forward this again so that those of you who are interested can register on line for this presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Cole