

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY  
FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER**

**Calendar of Events**

<b>02/13</b>	<b>GD: Climate Migration, Online Only</b>
<b>02/20</b>	<b>GD: Iran at the Crossroads</b>
<b>02/21</b>	<b>Election Day</b>
<b>02/23</b>	<b>Improving the Criminal Justice System</b>
<b>02/27</b>	<b>GD: Politics in Latin America</b>
<b>03/02</b>	<b>Manitowoc's Common Council Forum</b>
<b>03/06</b>	<b>China and the US</b>
<b>03/07</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<b>03/09</b>	<b>Two Rivers Board Candidates' Forum</b>

**President's Corner**



I would like to start out congratulating our very own Donna Firman for winning the prestigious Athena Award from the Chamber, and was also mentioned as a partner with the Production Farm for their award in collaboration with Prevent Suicide and Donna. She is an example of what one very hard-working person can do to help so many in our community. Donna is an active League member, President of our local NAMI chapter, grant writer extraordinaire, and a leader in our local Prevent Suicide. Thank you, Donna, for all you do to help so many in our community, even though you ruffle some important feathers from time to time. Sometimes we need a little shake up if anything is going to get done.

The Mental Health committee in sponsorship with NAMI, and in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce held a panel discussion on January 26th on Mental Health and the Work Place at the beautiful Orion facility. We had a fantastic panel of speakers and an attendance of around 35 people. It was very reassuring to know that we have such wonderful resources in our community and companies that care about the mental health of their employees. The Mental Health Committee will continue to work with NAMI as they move forward with their planning for a Mental Health Court in Manitowoc County.

Darlene and Marilyn have once again arranged a wonderful season of Great Decision programs. There were about 86 people in attendance at the library for the first night and another 50 watching from home. Please support this effort by coming to the library or connecting remotely from home. We have the very best program in the country, or at least that's what we think here in Manitowoc.

If you get a chance reach out to Cathy Cole and thank her for all she's doing to encourage people to vote, register to vote, and attend in person candidate forums. We are planning on having our first in person annual meeting in 3 years this coming May. Anita, Cathy, Julie, and Angela are working very hard to set a date, place, and program for this event and we hope you can all join us for a fun night of laughter and learning.

A Big Thank you goes to Darian Kaderabek for volunteering to cover the Manitowoc City Council meetings for our Observer Corps. Please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions or information to share.

Thanks so much, Maureen

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### **A SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL OUR LOCAL MEMBERS:**

Instead of a big public meeting at the City Hall, we have arranged a setting at the **Lakeshore United Methodist Church** to encourage all of our membership (and friends) to attend.

We hope to attach a name to a face we have only met on our membership list and interact on a more personal level. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

### **IMPROVING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND REDUCING MASS INCARCERATION**

A meeting is scheduled on **Thursday February 23 at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm** at **Lakeshore United Methodist Church**, 411 Reed Avenue, to address **important justice issues**.

**Attorney Casey Hoff**, acclaimed **defense attorney** and Herald Times **columnist** from Sheboygan, will be the **guest speaker with discussion** to

follow on the **role of citizens** in improving the system. **All interested persons are invited to attend.**

Sponsors for this community meeting are the **League of Women Voters** and **RUTH**.

**For more information call** Darlene Wellner (LWV) 920-682-9466 or Nancy Slattery (RUTH) 920-863-2996.

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## **FORUMS:**

Currently, we have scheduled two forums. On Thursday, March 2, 2023, the City of Manitowoc and the League Women Voters of Manitowoc County will sponsor a Candidates' Forum for the Aldermen's Race in District 1, 3, and 7 at Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street. The doors will open at 6:30 pm to the public. The forum will begin at 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. The format will begin with an introduction from each of the candidates. The floor will be open for questions from the audience to all candidates. The candidates will have an opportunity to answer and have a two minute closing response.

The same format will be followed for the Two Rivers candidates for the Council Members. This forum will be held at the Two Rivers City Hall, 1717 East Park Street. The doors will be open at 6:30 to the public and forum will begin at 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm.

## **VOTING:**

Voting for the Supreme Court Judge is currently taking place. The absentee ballots went out and those of you who want to vote in person can go to your City Hall and cast a ballot until February 17<sup>th</sup>. Voters can vote at your local polling site on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

There are four candidates running for election in District 3. The two candidates who get the most votes will be placed on the April 4<sup>th</sup> ballot.

There are four judges running for election of the State Supreme Court. The two candidates who get the most votes will be placed on the April 4<sup>th</sup> ballot.

For the April 4<sup>th</sup> Election, absentee ballots will be sent out by Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. These forums will give all citizens the information that is needed to select the best candidate for the job.

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## **MAY BANQUET**

The May Banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Avenue, Manitowoc on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration and Cocktails begin at 5 pm, dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. Since most of us have been voting on candidates, local programming, amendments, etc., we will continue to do this prior to our banquet. Save the date. More information will be forthcoming.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Anita Rappe has a new provider. Her new address is: [anitarappe@cloud.com](mailto:anitarappe@cloud.com). Please correct your membership list.

Also, many of you have received an invitation to say good-bye to a member of the board and League for many years. I am talking about Erica Strauss who will be leaving the Manitowoc area and moving out of state. We want to thank Erica for her time and commitment she has made to league for all these years. She will be missed.

For those of you who wish to say good-bye, a party will be held at the Lakeshore UU Fellowship 620 Park Street, starting at 4 pm on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Pizza and wine is provided. Good memories to be shared will be welcomed.