

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02/12	GD: Middle East Alignment (Virtual) Part 1
02/15	School Based Mental Health Services
02/19	GD: Middle East Alignment Part 2
02/20	Election Day
02/26	Science and AI
03/04	NATO'S Future
03/05	Board Meeting

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Dear League Members,

We have a busy February and March. Great Decisions is having its first virtual program this Tuesday on the Middle East Alignment. Notice that this is part 1 and the following week Part 2 will be presented.

Also, we have a program at the Manitowoc Public Library this Thursday on School Based Mental Health Services. Mark your calendar since this should be a very good forum on this issue. Further details are in this Newsletter.

We have three new members. They are Annette Kaminsky, Catherine Leone, and Peggy Turnbull. We welcome these women to the League.

Nominations are open to anyone who like to serve on the board either for one or two years. If you are interested, please come to our board meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 pm at the Presbyterian Church on 8th Street. This would give you an idea of how we come up with programs and events. This year we will also be electing a President and a Treasurer for a two year term.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!!

Cathy

GREAT DECISIONS

Every Monday during Great Decisions, members of league are invited to join the speakers **at Izumi Asian Cuisine, 50 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc at 4:30 pm.** It is a time when you get to speak to them one on one and really get to know them. Obviously, no one is meeting this Monday since it is virtual, but keep this in mind for the following weeks.

02/12: Middle East Alignment (Part 1) Online Only, Alise Coen, PhD, UW-GB

02/19: Middle East Alignment (Part 2), Beth Dougherty, PhD, Beloit College

02/26: Science & AI, Matthew Friedel, PhD, UW-Milwaukee

03/05: NATO'S Future, Martin Farrell, PhD, Ripon College (Retired)

FORUM ON SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The League Mental Health Committee is sponsoring a forum on school based mental health services on **Thursday, February 15 at 6 pm at the Manitowoc Public Library.** The event will be co sponsored by NAMI and is free and open to the public.

Speakers on the panel will be Kristin Sterns from Lakeshore Community Clinic, Jenny Schneider, school social worker for the Two Rivers School District and Heather Baugniet, school counselor for Mishicot School District.

Recently, Lakeshore Community Clinic was awarded a \$700,000 federal grant to provide school based mental health services in the Manitowoc and Sheboygan areas. This has allowed them to expand the services they were already offering in some schools to most of the schools in the Manitowoc School District. Two Rivers School District also has mental health services available in the schools through a local provider.

With the post covid increase in students with mental health concerns, it is important to provide the services students need where they can access them. We will learn more about how school based mental health services are helping children and teens in our communities and what more can be done.

ELECTIONS: FEBRUARY 20TH, 2024

The only County Contest that requires a primary is for County Board Supervisor **District 25**, which will take place only in the **City of Two Rivers, Wards 7 & 8**. The four candidates are Bonnie Shimulunas, Jason Ring, Douglas Wolf, and Abdalla Ibrahim. The primary will eliminate 2 candidates. The two winners will move forward to the April ballot.

The other primary contest is for the **Manitowoc Public School District**. Only those that reside in the school district would be able to vote on February 20.

There is not a county-wide primary ballot.

After this election a forum will be set for the Manitowoc Public School District.

There is a forum scheduled in the Two Rivers chambers Room at City Hall on Thursday, March 7th at 7 pm. We will introduce the candidates who will have an opportunity to introduce themselves to the public and answer questions from the audience.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Ginny Finnel, Suzanne Zipperer, and Darlene Wellner

The Committee is seeking candidates who are interested in the Presidency and Treasurer. This is a two year commitment. The President creates an agenda and presides over the Board meetings that are on the first Tuesday of each month. There are virtual meetings with other leagues with State office creating an agenda. These meetings are every two months. Treasurer collects dues and reports to the state and national league membership. The treasurer is responsible for preparing a budget and a monthly report to the board.

Elected Directors serve on board for two years. Appointed Directors serve only 1 year. Directors plan the issues that will be covered throughout the year.

For the newer members, we do have two to three socials a year where we actually let down our hair and enjoy the company of league members. Issues meetings such as Great Decisions and the program on School Based Mental Health Services are open to the public. If you are interested contact a member of the committee or a board member for further information.

MEMBERSHIP

We have four new members: Peggy and Robert Turnbull and Catherine Leone and Jeffery Brown. Welcome to League.

Here is the timetable for the past and upcoming actions required in response to the Supreme Court Decision on WI Legislative Maps in *Clarke v WEC*.

Here are the key deadlines:

- February 1, 2024 - Expert Reports: Experts will assess the maps for constitutional compliance. If necessary, they'll submit alternative maps. This ensures an unbiased assessment and bolsters the integrity of the process.
 - February 8, 2024 - Responses to Expert Reports: Final feedback ensures that all concerns are addressed, further refining the maps towards utmost fairness.
 - March 15, 2024 - Deadline from Wisconsin election Commission (WEC) for WisVote Integration: This is the deadline for new maps in order for the incorporation of the selected map into the voter database will mark the practical implementation of new, fair districts.
 - April 15, 2024 - Nomination Process Begins: This marks the start of a new electoral landscape, with candidates engaging in a more equitable political environment.
 - June 1, 2024 - Nomination Deadline: Finalizing candidate nominations sets the stage for elections reflective of our newly drawn, fair districts.
 - August 13, 2024 - Partisan Primary: This key milestone will be the first test of our new, fairer maps in a live electoral setting.
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Why is this process so fast and compacted?

Because of the deadlines required by the WEC and for the new maps to be ready for the 2024 elections. This is a very short timeline for everyone involved!