

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
JANUARY 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02/03	GD: U. S. - Changing Leadership of the World Economy
02/04	Board Meeting
02/06	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
02/10	GD: After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East
02/17	GD: Future of NATO and European Security
02/24	GD: International Cooperation on Climate Change

Dear League Members,

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. Again, the board thanks Julie Grinde for opening up her home for our Christmas party. She is a wonderful host and we were very pleased that many of our new members attended this social.

Great Decisions will begin on Monday, February 3rd and will continue until March 24th. **Details are in the newsletter.**

We will be having a members' only meeting on **Thursday, February 6th on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** This will be a great time to meet old friends and the new members of our league. We look forward to seeing all of you at this very informative meeting. **Details are in the Newsletter.**

Stay healthy and safe.

Cathy

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Please join us for the first LWV-Manitowoc County General Membership Meeting of the year on Thursday, February 6, at 6:00pm at the Manitowoc Public Library in the Balkansky Room. This meeting is for LWV-MC members only.

Our featured speaker will be Kole Torres, DEI Coordinator from the State office in Madison. She will be guiding us as to how to implement best practices of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) here in Manitowoc County in our programming and events.

We have 23 new members who have joined our League. This will be a great time to discuss what things we have done in the past and what improvements we can make for the future. We look forward to the conversation.

Light refreshments will be served. See you there!!

GREAT DECISION

Great Decisions is a project of the Foreign Policy Association. It is a grassroots world affairs education program which brings together Americans from across the nation to discover and discuss foreign policy issues. This is an eight week program. It began in 2007 with Marilyn Sontag and Darlene Wellner approaching the Manitowoc Public Library. They were interested and on that first day of the program's scheduled event after a severe snowstorm, we had over 150 people in attendance. We have now expanded the program to streaming and reach over 300 people. The League has received a national award because of the great interest of the people in Manitowoc County who have attended and participated in this program.

Great Decisions is at the Manitowoc Public Library in the **Balkansky Room**. It begins at **6:00 pm on Monday, February 3rd** and continues until March 24th with a variety of topics and speakers. This is also on line.

Marilyn and Darlene meet with the speakers at 4:00 pm for dinner at Izumi's restaurant. Any and all are welcomed to meet with them prior to the program.

The presentations for February are:

02/03 – U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy; Pablo Torell, Phd. ,
Beloit College.

02/10 – After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East; Beth Dougherty, Phd.,
Beloit College.

02/17 – Future of NATO and European Security; Martin Farrell, Retired, Ripon
College.

02/24 – International Cooperation on Climate Change, Elizabeth Wheat, Phd. ,
UW-Green Bay.

VOTER SERVICES

All members are being recruited for this committee as voter education is one of our prime efforts. There is a **primary on February 18th** since there are seven candidates for three positions on the Board of the Manitowoc Public School District. The League will present a forum to help the public to meet and ask questions of the candidates.

There will be more forums in both Manitowoc and Two Rivers on the candidates running for Mayor and City Councils. These forums will be held in March before the April elections.

The myvote.gov.wi web site has valuable resources, including sample ballots, dates, and where to vote.

MEMBERSHIP

The National League has decided that we should enroll on a website that they have established. All members will be notified in the near future when this will happen to them.

Thanks to the initiation of Suzanne Zipperer and Ginny Finnel, we have 23 new members who are about to enroll into the computer program established by the

League of Women Voters of the United States. They will be our informants on how the new system has worked.

Since this is so new, there will be mistakes and errors that maybe corrected before our May Annual Meeting. Therefore, we will be sending out more information through the newsletter in the future months.

We will keep you informed on the new changes and how they will affect the renewal process.

MEMORIAM

The League has lost a valued member on December 31, 2024. Susan Lind was an active member of League. She served and was an invaluable member of the Mental Health Committee since its inception. She was the Deputy Director of the Human Services Department in Manitowoc and was one of the founders and served on the board of directors for Painting Pathways. Susan supported many local charities reflecting her deep commitment to making a difference.