

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

03/18 GD: Understanding Indonesia/Online Only
03/20 FORUM: Board of Education at Lincoln
03/21 FORUM: Supervisors and Common Council of Manitowoc
03/25 GD: High Seas Treaty
03/27 Meagan Wolfe Presents
04/01 Board Meeting
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Dear League Members,

We have a busy month!! Great Decisions is wrapping up. We have had good attendance and wonderful speakers who are very knowledgeable and relatable to all. Recently, a couple from Downers Grove, Illinois (my home town) came to see Great Decisions in person. They were delightful and enjoyed the evening.

We have two forums that are of interest to the City of Manitowoc. The Lincoln High School students will again conduct the forum for the Board of Education. Further information is in the Newsletter.

The League will have a brief introduction to the candidates running for County Supervisors. They will have 3 minutes to introduce themselves. The main event will be the candidates running for City Council of Manitowoc.

We are very happy to be collaborating with the Manitowoc Public Library with the presentation of “You Can Trust the Election System in Wisconsin” by Meagan Wolfe.

For more information, READ the rest of the March Newsletter.

Cathy

GREAT DECISIONS:

There are two more presentations. On March 18th, Understanding Indonesia will be presented by Eunsook Jung, Ph.D, UW-Madison. This will be online only, but Tim will make sure that all questions will be addressed.

The last presentations will be held on Monday, March 25th. High Seas Treaty will be presented by Elizabeth Wheat, PhD, UW-Green Bay.

We hope all of you have enjoyed the series.

A big thank you goes to Kathy Fishbeck, Marilyn Sontag, and Darlene Wellner.

FORUMS:

SCHOOL BOARD FORUM:

Matt Kadow and his students will be running the candidates forum for the following school board candidates. The School Board candidates are: Incumbents: Kerry Trask and Stacey Soeldner. They are running against Keith Shaw and Basil Buchko, Jr. for two open seats. It will be held at the Lincoln Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20th.

COUNTY SUPERVISORS AND COMMON COUNCIL:

At 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 21st at the Manitowoc City Hall, the candidates running for MC Board of Supervisors will have an opportunity to speak for three minutes on who they are and why they want to serve on the board. The following candidates are: District 3: Incumbent Rita Metzger against Morgan Sickinger; District 8: Incumbent Paul Hacker against Mark Linsmeier; District 15: Catherine Wagner against Dylan Hammel; District 22: Incumbent Denise Heller against Mike Grambow; District 25: Incumbent Bonnie Shimulunas against DougWolf.

The next session will begin at 7:15 pm. It will be a true forum with Julie Grinde as the League’s timer and questions will come from the audience. The candidates are as follows: Jim Brey, Dan Hielman, Eric Sitkiewitz, Collin Braunel, Bill Schlei, Bradley Barnes, Steve Czekala, and Brett Norell.

**YOU CAN TRUST THE ELECTIONS IN THE WISCONSIN SYSTEM
PRESENTED BY MEAGAN WOLFE, WISCONSIN ELECTIONS
COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR**

During the course of her appearance in **Manitowoc Public Library’s Balkansky Community Room** the evening of **March 27 at 6-7:45 PM**, Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator, **Meagan Wolfe**, will provide an outline of Wisconsin’s very thorough and decentralized system of running elections, speaking to how the Wisconsin system is different from systems in other states, and explain why our state’s voters should trust it to deliver accurate and fair results. We hope that you’ll be able to join us on **March 27** for the information-rich “You Can Trust Wisconsin’s Election System,” presented by Manitowoc Public Library and the League of Women Voters—Manitowoc County, from **6-7:45 PM**. If you are unable to attend in-person, this presentation will also be livestreamed on both MPL’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary) and YouTube channel.

Meagan Wolfe is administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, serving as the state’s chief election official. Wolfe was appointed by the bi-partisan, six-member Commission in February of 2018 and unanimously confirmed by the Wisconsin State Senate in May of 2019 for a four-year term. Serving as an election security advocate and ambassador for the needs of Wisconsin’s clerks and voters are among her highest priorities. A significant part of her job is ensuring that Wisconsin’s 1,922 local election officials (the most of any state) have the resources and technology they need to conduct elections. Wolfe previously served as WEC’s Deputy Administrator and IT Director, managing the teams that develop and maintain the statewide voter registration system, election security, and all other IT applications of the Commission. She joined state service in 2011, starting as the state’s voter outreach coordinator and later as an elections IT project manager leading a major redesign of the MyVote Wisconsin voter information portal (myvote.wi.gov).

VOTING: TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2024

The State League is educating the public about the proposed amendments to the State Constitution that will appear on the April 2nd ballot and urging a NO vote. The two proposals would impose restrictions on election and administration.



Question 1 would ban all private donations from election administration. Funds from non-governmental organizations have been used when government money is not sufficient to effectively conduct an election, such as during the pandemic.

Question 2 would limit those who perform any tasks in conducting an election to election officials. The vague language of this proposal would inhibit clerks from relying on the outside experts, volunteers and community organizations they now use to assist in running an election.

What you can do:

- Arrange for presentations in your church or neighborhood. [Use this slideshow presentation](#) or request a presenter from the advocacy team.
- Use the [LWV Wisconsin Vote NO toolkit](#), with graphics and text for social media, letters, or flyers, to get the word out.
- Use our [sample letters to the editor](#) to help you write your own letter to the editor.

The LWV of Wisconsin supports the NO vote. I received the above information from the League of Dane County: email address: [lwvDane County office@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:lwvDaneCountyoffice@lwvdanecounty.org).

Absentee Ballots will be mailed sometime this week. Early voting begins March 19th.

Received a notice from the State that the City of Manitowoc is in need of poll workers. If you are a resident and could be available, please contact MacKenzie Reed, City Clerk at (920) 686-6980.

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

Our League Mental Health Committee recently held a panel discussion on school based mental health services. We were pleased with the attendance of

about 50 people and the presenters really made a case for the need for these services. Kristin Sterns from Lakeshore Community Health Center, Jennifer Schneider from Two Rivers Public School District and Heather Baugnet, from the Mishicot School District were wonderful presenters. Through a large two year federal grant, Lakeshore Community Health Center is now able to offer mental health counseling in all Manitowoc Schools.

We learned that the United Way of Sheboygan County provides funding for services for families who do not have health insurance or who have large deductibles that they can't afford to pay. As a result, members of our committee met with the Sheboygan United Way coordinator to learn how they are able to do this. We received a wealth of information and are looking forward to sharing this with our committee and seeing what can be done here in Manitowoc County to help.

MEMBERSHIP

We have added new members to our league. Darlene Wellner interviewed these new members. Please take time to introduce yourselves to these interesting people.

Catherine Leone-

Catherine grew up in the Chicago suburbs, graduated from the University of California, Berkley and then received a doctorate degree.

From 1989-2015 she taught Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin, Manitowoc campus.

She has been a League speaker in the past and felt it was now time to join. Catherine and her husband spend June- September at their home in Michigan. We are glad you joined Catherine!

Peggy and Robert Turnbull-

Peggy grew up in Manitowoc. She graduated from UW Madison with a degree in Anthropology. She also lived in Austin, Texas and received a Master's degree in Library Science.

She was a League member in Athens, West Virginia where she was active in a peace coalition.

She also worked on environmental issues such as powerline routing. When she returned to Manitowoc she served as the Manitowoc Public Library director from 2008-2015.

Thanks for joining League Peggy and Robert!

Annette Kaminski-

Annette was a former League member from Kewaunee. She moved to Manitowoc in 2010.

She was a nurse practitioner with Holy Family Froedtert retiring in October 2023. She is interested in League studies and debates.

We are so glad you chose to join League Annette! There is plenty of work to do.

