

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**11/14-19    Issues Briefing at LWV-WI, Madison, WI**  
**12/03        Holiday Social**

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Dear League Members,

I want to thank Suzanne Zipperer and her committee for the very successful Trivia Night at the Tapped at the Lakeshore. It was a huge success and we know that there will be more fun evenings in store for the new people who expressed an interest in League.

Thank you goes out to all the members of Voter Services who volunteered their time and energy to encourage and register voters in our area. Also, a big thank you goes out to the Poll Workers and City Clerks who spent long hours to make certain that every vote counted and all was done by the books.

Another big thank you goes out to Linda Gratz and her committee on the successful educational program on the Voucher System and the Impact it has on Local Taxes and Public Schools. It was a huge success!

In this Newsletter you will find, information on the various programs that the Issues Briefing will bring by ZOOM. The title for these three events is JUSTICE FOR ALL. The topics will be on: Justice for Native Americans; Justice in the Justice System and Justice for the LGBTQIA + Community. Since many of you are interested in the Justice system, please take the time to view the ones that interest you.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we do not have a board meeting, but a social event to kick off the Christmas Season. This is a great time to visit with many members who have been in League for some time and a great way to meet the newest members.

Cathy

## ISSUES BRIEFING

Last week I sent information on how to register for this year's Issues Briefing. The title is: **JUSTICE FOR ALL**. It begins via zoom on **Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm on Justice for Native Americans**. It will cover Native law, treaties, policies and laws that impact treaty rights; and barriers to voting.

Next, on **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am, the topic will be JUSTICE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**. It will cover sentencing inequality, prison conditions, prison gerrymandering, and voting rights for incarcerated people.

The third and final installment will be on **Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm on Justice for LGBTQIA+ Community**. This presentation will cover the impact of legislation on minors and schools, barriers to provide essential care for this community.

The Issues Briefings have been valuable meetings for many years. It is hoped that some of you have registered already to take part in these discussions. If you are interested, go to LWV-WI, Issues Briefing 2024 to register.

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## HOLIDAY SOCIAL

**On Tuesday, December 3rd at 5 pm**, the League will be having our annual Holiday Social at George and Julie Grinde's home, 6145 Silver Hills, Drive, Manitowoc. We are asked to bring an appetizer to pass. We have been having this social at Julie's home for many years in lieu of our December board meeting. This is an especially great time for new members to come and meet other members. We are invited to bring a friend, family member, neighbor, and/or a significant other. This is a low key event and simply FUN!!!

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## VOTER SERVICES, Suzanne Zipperer, Chair

I wish to thank the members who provided information to voters at Manitowoc and Two Rivers Public Libraries. They were Cathy Cole, Angela Zar, Annette

Kaminski, Ginny Finnel, Martha Rasmus, Mary Wallace, Denise Coffy, and Betty Becker. We also had a table at the YMCA two days.

A special thank you goes out to all the City Clerks in our area and the Poll Workers that helped them to have every vote count. These are long hours and can be very stressful during Election Day

## **MARKETING AND PUBLICITY**

The Trivia Night October 7<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Trivia Master Ginny Finnel kept the audience of about 50 people engaged throughout the evening at Tapped on the Lakeshore. Ten new members joined that evening and five more have joined since. Our next step is to meet with new members and learn what they are interested in and integrate them into the group. This meeting will take place the second week of November. Thanks to committee members Betsy Maliborski, Ginny Finnel, Angela Zar, and Jennifer Balma.

If you use Facebook or Instagram, please “friend” our page and “like” postings. This ups the algorithms and distributes the page more widely. Also, share things you would like to post with Ginny Finnel or Jennifer Balma.

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## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Linda Gratz, Chair**

I would like to thank Maureen Crowley for moderating our October informational meeting on **Private School Vouchers and How They Impact Local Taxes and Public Schools** that was held at the Manitowoc Library on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Maureen introduced our speakers and set the ground rules for the evening, including reading a statement on our non-partisan policy and the Wisconsin League of Women Voters position on charter schools.

Thank you so much to our speakers: Denise Gaumer Hutchison from the Wisconsin Public Education Network and a League of Women Voters member from Brown County, who gave an overview of vouchers and how they have impacted our public schools and what future funding looks like; also, Angela Erdmann, the Director of Business Services for the Manitowoc Public Schools, who explained what the impact of vouchers has been on our local public school district.

We had about 70 people in attendance and our speakers took questions throughout their presentations. The audience members represented a variety of opinions and asked many questions during the program. The tone was respectful and polite. Thank you to our community for showing that although opinions may differ, we can share our thoughts respectfully and politely.

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## **LWV-GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE:**

Annette Kaminski attended through zoom the Great Lakes Conference held in October of this year. She sent this outstanding article to be shared.

## **ENBRIDGE LINE 5**

Enbridge Line 5 is a 645 mile crude oil pipeline buried across upper Wisconsin and Michigan that then enters Lake Michigan and traverses through the Straits of Mackinac and ends up in Sarnia, Ontario. Twenty two million gallons of crude oil and natural gas liquids flow through it daily. It was constructed in 1953 and has outlived its intended lifespan by 21 years. In 2010 it was responsible for the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history where 40 miles of the Kalamazoo River were affected. The clean-up cost was \$1.2 billion. In the last 50 years there have been 34 spills releasing 1.1 million gallons of oil.

Two areas most currently affected are the Bad River Reservation in northern Wisconsin and the Straits of Mackinac. The Bad River Reservation has 200 square miles of wild land, 100 year old forest, 16,000 acres of wetlands and hundreds of miles of rivers and streams. Twenty miles of Enbridge Line 5 flow through this reservation. The easement provided by the Bad River Reservation expired in 2013 and was not renewed. Enbridge now has to reroute the line by 2026 around the reservation. The DNR of Wisconsin recently completed its study for rerouting the pipeline and plans to start issuing permits for a new section of 41 miles outside the reservation that will traverse 186 waterways and 612 acres of wetlands. The cost will be \$450 million. The Bad River Indian Reservation is still concerned as the new route is very close to the reservation and it would still be affected by any potential spills. The new route will put Copper Falls State Park and other beautiful areas of Wisconsin at risk.

The state of Michigan is very concerned about the pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac. The supports anchoring it to the floor of the lake have eroded and the

line sways in the currents. The currents are very strong through the straits and are constantly changing directions. In 2018 a tugboat anchor struck the pipeline damaging it in several places but there was no rupture. The protective coating has worn away exposing bare metal. This crude oil is not very refined and is very viscous. In the result of a spill it will sink instead of float making clean up extremely difficult. A spill would impact 700 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. Enbridge has proposed putting a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac.

The State of Michigan and interest groups such as FLOW (For Love of Water) are trying to close down the pipeline permanently. There has been concern that 12,000 homes and businesses in upper Michigan rely on propane from the pipeline. This has been studied and it is felt that there are enough other sources of propane available. Initially the cost of propane could increase 5 cents per gallon but this would eventually come down. It is felt there are enough other sources of oil in the United States and Canada to replace what is provided by this line and the price of gas would only increase ½ cent per gallon.

The Great Lakes provide 95% of the surface water in the United States. As drought affects large portions of the world many eyes are looking at the Great Lakes as a future source of freshwater. While Governor Whitmer and the State of Michigan are actively looking to shut down the pipeline, Wisconsin is moving forward on rerouting the pipeline around the Bad River Reservation to keep it active.

For more information check: [https://www.sierraclub.org/Line 5](https://www.sierraclub.org/Line5), [forloveofwater.org](https://forloveofwater.org). [dnr.wisconsin.gov](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov)-newsroom: DNR Publishes Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Enbridge Line 5 Relocation.

We need to protect this valuable asset that we have here in Wisconsin!! It could be time to get the Legislation Action Committee to propose a letter to be sent to all of our Representatives and Senators at both state and national levels.

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**BOOK CLUB: Nancy Slattery at [slattery927@gmail.com](mailto:slattery927@gmail.com)**

A community book read of “Poverty in America” by Matthew Desmond author of “Evicted” will begin as soon as the Manitowoc Library has collected the copies. Contact Nancy Slattery if you are interested in joining. Non league members are welcomed.

