

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY  
SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Calendar of Events**

**09/19      LWV – Kick-Off**  
**09/24      National Voter Registration Day**  
**10/01      Board Meeting**  
**10/03      Mental Health Court**  
**10/19      Issues Briefing, Madison Radisson**

.....  
Dear League Members,

With Labor Day weekend unofficially starting the beginning of fall, we begin our new fiscal year for 2019-20. The board has been busy setting up issue events that will be informative, educational, and entertaining.

We start our year with the celebration of 100 years of voting. As many of you know, Wisconsin was the first to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment allowing all American women to vote on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919. A total of 36 states were needed to ratify the amendment. This process ended up taking more than a year until Tennessee was the last to ratify in August 1920. We are happy to have the Heritage Players perform Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words: "Failure is Impossible" as our first general meeting for the year at the Manitowoc Public Library in the Balkansky Room on **September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.** For more information, please read the Newsletter.

Also, we have a public forum on **Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** on the topic of mental courts at the **Manitowoc City Hall at 7 pm.** Please read the Newsletter for further information on this important issue.

**Mark your calendar for these two events.**

Thank you for all of your support.

Cathy

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE**

The League and the Manitowoc Public Library will present “Failure Is Impossible.” Bev Smith brings Susan B. Anthony to life in her crusade for human rights through a series of interviews, dialogues, and narrated episodes.

The program will be held at the **Manitowoc Public Library Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Balkansky Community Room.** A brief meeting will occur after the performance. The board will be introduced and a tentative agenda of programs will be presented. This is free and open to the public and all interested in the human rights of women. Light refreshments will be served.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MENTAL HEALTH COURT FORUM**

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County will sponsor a public forum on the topic of mental health courts at **Manitowoc City Hall on Thursday, October 3 at 7 pm.** Co sponsors of the event are RUTH (Responding with Understanding, Truth and Hope) and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

The main speaker will be Judge Donald Zuidmulder, of Brown County who presides over his county’s mental health court. Judge Zuidmulder is responsible for starting Brown County’s Drug Treatment Court in 2009 and has watched the number of treatment courts in his county grow to four under his watch. He will discuss how the mental health court has benefited Brown County by reducing police contacts, jail costs and recidivism among participants. He will also give suggestions for how to start a mental health court.

Mental health courts work with individuals with mental illnesses who are involved with the justice system. The court program provides a diversion from incarceration, treatment, support and monitoring. Currently there are three mental health courts in Wisconsin, located in Brown, Eau Claire and Outagamie Counties.

The October 3<sup>rd</sup> program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **OBSERVER CORP**

Local news media is no longer available to attend and report on governmental meetings in our community. As a result of this lack of coverage, citizens of our county are less informed regarding local policy issues and the decisions that are being made. An Observer Corps helps keep members informed about what is happening in local governmental agencies. By regularly attending public meetings of local governmental agencies, the Observer Corps' members keep elected officials aware of the organization's interest in local government and help all the organization's members to be better informed citizens through the reports on those meetings. This committee would need members to attend their City Council meetings, School Board meetings, and County Board meetings. If enough members participate, the attendance at these meetings could be once or twice a year. The reports would be presented to the board meetings and published in the Monthly Newsletter.

We have had a good response, but could use more people to attend these important meetings throughout the year. Please consider participating in this committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PHONE TREE**

The phone tree has been discontinued. However, I will be sending the general membership a gentle reminder of meetings through e-mails. Since there are a few of you without e-mail, I will call to remind you of upcoming events.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The current membership list is being prepared, along with a list of people who have signed up to serve on one or more of the committees on the interest form. Look for both after September 15<sup>th</sup>.

In the last three years, we have had many new members. In the past, I would send a packet with a membership roster, by-laws, and LWVMC Local Program Handbook. However, we ran out of the program booklet and I directed new members to go to our website: [lwvmanitowoc.org](http://lwvmanitowoc.org) for further information on League. This year, we have updated and revised our programs, adding 12 pages to

the original booklet. If any of you wish a hard copy of this booklet, please contact Cathy Cole at (920) 553-8757. The updated and revised handbook will be on our website. Many members have our 67 page booklet and some have decided to read this on line.

## **LWVWI**

On September 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm the League will sponsor for free an online Q&A session with Dr. McBride where she will answer questions about her Wisconsin suffrage history lecture. Registration information is available at [lwvwi.org](http://lwvwi.org) under Events.

Issues Briefing will be held at the Radisson Hotel on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The briefing will include such topics as: 2020 census, rights restoration and criminal justice reform, League environmental priorities, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, immigration, the ERA and more, Registration will be forthcoming.