

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER**

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Calendar of Events

April 16	Earth Day
May 2	Board Meeting
May 13 & 14	Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep
May 19	LWVMC Annual Dinner
June 6	Board Meeting
June 10 & 11	LWVWI Annual Meeting in Whitewater

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Dear Leaguers,

I would like to invite all of you to our annual dinner, Thursday, May 19th at the Holiday Inn. Our speakers, Joe and Joyce Ellwanger, are a couple that have devoted their lives to social justice and should have an inspirational message for us. The social hour will start at 5:30 and you can make reservations by calling Marilyn Sontag at 682-8988.

This has been a very busy and positive year for our local league. We conducted four candidate forums, three community education events, and two membership socials as well as co sponsoring the Great Decisions series, registering voters, participating in Earth Day and hosting the Lake Michigan Interleague's annual meeting. League members have attended legislative events in Madison and advocated for causes consistent with state and national League positions, such as opposing the Voter ID Bill. We have also started a two-year study on local mental health needs that has already led to the creation of a countywide task force. In addition, we have finally upgraded our website. Check it out at lwvmanitowoc.org. We have accomplished a lot this year and it makes me proud to be a League member!

We would welcome your participation in any League events and hope to see you at the annual dinner.

Mary

EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be held at **Silver Lake College, 2406 Alverno Road** on **Saturday, April 16th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. There will be a variety of booths, exhibits, talks, raffles, food, and a variety of activities for all. The League will have a table where you will be able to sign two petitions. One petition will be for opposing the following threat to voter rights: Voter Photo ID; eliminating same day registration, restricting early voting and extending the 10-day residency law.

Voter fraud is extremely rare and voter impersonation is non-existent. Voter Photo ID is an expensive new program to solve a problem that doesn't exist. These measures will make voting more difficult for the elderly, students, the disabled, and the poor. We believe voting is a right and a responsibility and should be accessible to every eligible citizen.

The other petition will be for the opposition of the proposal in the state budget to eliminate funding for recycling. Recycling is the conservation of resources and is the conservative thing to do for our state and planet.

The signed petitions will be sent to our state legislators and governor.

STOP at our table to say hello to a fellow leaguer and sign one and/or both of these petitions tomorrow.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County is pleased to announce their 2011 annual meeting on Thursday, May 19th with speakers Rev. Joseph and Joyce Ellwanger of Milwaukee. The Ellwangers, who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Birmingham, Alabama during the 1960's, received the 2010 Frank P. Zeidler Community Service Award for their 45-year commitment to justice in Milwaukee.

All are welcomed to join us for dinner at the **Holiday Inn Manitowoc**, corner of Highway 151 and I-43. Rev. Ellwanger, a 77-year-old retired Lutheran pastor, works throughout Wisconsin advocating for legislation to divert nonviolent drug and alcohol offenders from incarceration and into treatment. Joyce works within the Milwaukee County DA's restorative justice effort and SOA Watch, an international justice group.

There will be a **social gathering at 5:30 pm** followed by a **chicken stir-fry dinner at 6:00 pm**. The address "**Lessons Learned Along the Way**" will start at **7:00 pm** followed by **the League's annual business meeting at 8:15 pm**. The cost for the dinner will be **\$12.00**. Contact Marilyn Sontag at sontagr@sbcglobal.net or 920-682-8988 for reservations and/or further information.

The new officers and board of directors for 2011-2012 year will be placed before the general membership at the annual meeting. The following candidates are:

Officers:

President	Catherine Cole	2011-2012
Vice-President	Mary Wallace	2011-2012
Secretary	Julie Grinde*	2011-2013
Treasurer	Patricia Dodge	2010-2012

Elected Directors:

Jennifer Balma	2010-2012
Linda Gratz	2010-2012
Connie Hendries	2010-2012
Nancy Slattery	2010-2012
Joan Kaeiser*	2011-2013
Shelly Randerson*	2011-2013
Anita Rappe*	2011-2013
Marilyn Sontag*	2011-2013
Darlene Wellner*	2011-2013

Appointed Directors:

Jacquelyn Collins*	2011-2012
Rachel Muchin Young*	2011-2012

The names with an asterisk are those who start a new term.

Our By-Laws will also be updated at this meeting. Please bring your copy of our By Laws to this meeting and get ready to discuss and vote on the suggestions that have been made.

We would like to see as many of our Leaguers at this meeting as possible. This is our time to relax, enjoy, and reflect on what we have accomplished throughout the year.

Catherine L. Cole, editor