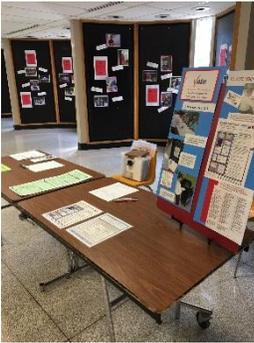


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DOOR COUNTY

April 2017 Newsletter to Members and Friends



Voter information days were held at Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol, and Gibraltar high schools prior to the April 4 general election. We appreciated the cooperation of school administrators to bring voting procedure guidance to soon-to-be 18 years olds. Several high schools have agreed to welcome LWVDC members to conduct a “mini civics course” this spring to engage students in the governmental process and advocacy on issues.

ALICE Discussion on April 22

Crucially Important Presentation in Baileys Harbor

Contrary to the title of the old movie *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, it appears that ALICE is very much alive in Door County – in fact, 21 percent of its population. “ALICE in Door County” will be explored on Saturday, April 22 at 9:00 a.m. at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall in a presentation sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Door County. Charlene Mouille, Executive Director of United Way of Wisconsin, will speak in depth about the sector of the population represented by ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. Ms. Mouille’s appearance is underwritten by the League’s Eileen Bohn Speaker Series fund.

A panel of representatives from local agencies and organizations will put a Door County “face” on a group of citizens – essentially the working poor - who struggle on a daily basis to make ends meet while sometimes working multiple jobs. These agencies assist residents in becoming economically independent.

Panelists include:

- Caleb Frostman, Executive Director of Door County Economic Development Corporation, a public-private partnership dedicated to improving the economic vitality of the County through a myriad of programs and initiatives. He will focus on the employment picture, the types of jobs available as well as the range of wages and benefits.
- Carol Wautlet, Economic Support Manager for the Door County Department of Human Services, will describe the situation of citizens who are eligible for the county’s various public assistance programs.
- Public Health Nurse Mary Ellen Smith will explain the types of programs offered by the Door County Public Health Department and the people who need them.
- Sandy Soik from Lakeshore CAP, a program committed to increasing economic self-sufficiency, will describe the housing and food situation in the county.

- Amy Kohnle, Director of United Way of Door County, will complete the local picture by providing details on the availability of child care, alcohol and other drug abuse issues, and other challenges affecting this population.

Please come and invite others. A flyer is attached if you'd like to take it to your church, work, or other organizations. If members would like to volunteer to help us with refreshments on the morning of 4/22, please email lwvdcprez@gmail.com.

2017 Annual Meeting Invitation

May 12, 2017 at Liberty Square, Egg Harbor

Please join us for a timely program on water issues

5:00 – Social time and check-in

5:30 – Annual Meeting with election of officers, budget report, activity discussion

6:00 – Dinner Service Begins

7:00 – Program by Krista Grimm, LWV Lake Michigan Region

8:30 or earlier - Adjourn

Entrée choices:

1. Pasta Marinara (gluten free, vegetarian) topped with Parmesan cheese and served with garlic toast. \$22.00
2. Italian Beef Pot Roast served with baby red mashed potatoes. \$28.00
3. Chicken Alfredo. Chicken breast encrusted with Italian spices and Parmesan cheese. Pan seared, served over fettuccine pasta and topped with Alfredo sauce, melted mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses. Served with garlic toast. \$28.00

Reservations to lwvdcprez@gmail.com by May 1, please. When you arrive for the evening, please have a check made out to League of Women Voters of Door County, or exact cash to cover dinner cost. Thank you.

Heads-Up:

- Climate Change Coalition "Before The Flood" Wednesday, April 26, 7:00pm at Crossroads at Big Creek
- Door County Civility Project "The Only One in the Room" on May 3, 5:00-7:00pm, Stone Harbor. Suggested donation of \$20 but all are welcome regardless of ability to pay. Reservations appreciated.
<http://www.doorcountycivilityproject.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/DoorCountyCivilityProject/>

- “Music Therapy” co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Door County, May 5, 1:00pm, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Sponsored by LWVDC, Door County Medical Center and UW-Green Bay.
- Climate Change Coalition Environmental Forum, May 20, Stone Harbor Resort. <https://www.facebook.com/climatechangedoorcounty/>
- Wisdom Wednesday, June 7, 10:00am at Northern Door YMCA.

Sent to Door County papers on April 5:

To: The Editor
From: The League of Women Voters of Door County
Re: Wisconsin Redistricting

A major goal of the League of Women Voters of Door County is to promote an open government, one that is representative, accountable, responsive, and capable of making decisions. The existing redistricting process in Wisconsin does not promote this type of system and must be changed.

Partisan redistricting, also known as gerrymandering, has created a political reality that is the opposite of a democracy. Our current system allows the party in power (Democratic or Republican) to draw unfair districts in which politicians pick their voters rather than the voters picking them.

This is nothing new. The practice was first named in the *Boston Gazette* in 1812 after it was used under Governor Elbridge Gerry. Gerrymandering in extreme cases (like Wisconsin in 2011) can result in one party gaining more actual votes than the other while winning fewer seats in the election.

Modern computer software makes gerrymandering more effective. The voting history of residents is used to carve up districts, resulting in strange, jagged-looking electoral maps. Neighborhoods and suburbs can be dissected and splintered to favor a certain candidate. Huge populations of people from either party can be packed into a single district, or small communities can be sliced and diced into multiple districts. The result is the same: Less competition, less representation, wasted votes, and a discouraged electorate. Gerrymandering has been called “the most fun (politically) you can have without breaking the law.”

Recently, a federal court ruled that Wisconsin must redo its electoral map by November 1, 2017. Analysis of the 2011 redistricting found that the resulting electoral map unfairly favored Republicans who gained control of the state government in 2010. It’s vital to remember, however, that Wisconsin has **not** passed redistricting plans without significant and expensive court involvement in at least 70 years – **under governors and legislatures of both political parties**. This problem deserves a nonpartisan fix.

Wisconsin now has the opportunity to do it over and do it right. Gerrymandering has for too long been an underhanded way of cheating citizens out of true representation. It essentially makes some votes count more than others.

It is not enough to simply redo the maps. **The process needs to be changed entirely.** We should follow in the footsteps of states that have developed nonpartisan entities to create electoral maps. Iowa uses their Legislative Services Bureau. They

created clear criteria as to how to draw the lines, to focus on keeping geographical entities like cities and counties together. This approach works. It is cheaper and fairer, and Iowa's districts are some of the most competitive in the country. Competitive districts encourage new candidates to run and force leaders to better represent its citizens because they are more vulnerable to lose their positions if they don't.

A plan in which the non-partisan Legislative Reference Bureau would draw the maps has been introduced into the legislature. Communicate with your representatives! Let them know that you support these two bills: **AB 44 and SB 13**. Ask them to tell Senator Fitzgerald and Representative Vos that these bills deserve a hearing. Let them know that this costly problem needs to be fixed now!

Seth Wiederanders and the Board of the League of Women Voters of Door County

The support of our members propels us to continue advocating for LWV issues in a strong and positive way. Thanks for your participation.

**Nancy Fisher
LWVDC President**