



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF METRO
ST. LOUIS**

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

IN LEAGUE REPORTER

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104

St. Louis, MO 63144

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December 2019

STATE SETTLES LAWSUIT, WILL IMPROVE VOTER REGISTRATION

LWVMO's Board of Directors accepted an agreement with the state of Missouri on Nov. 1 to settle the League's lawsuit against the MO Secretary of State and the Department of Revenue (DOR). The lawsuit filed by LWV of Missouri and the A. Philip Randolph Institute accused the state of violating the federal National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) by not automatically updating voter information after residents change addresses.

"There are other improvements the League would like to see to make it easier to register and vote, but these changes at DMV license offices will bring Missouri closer to full compliance and reduce the number of qualified voters being shut out of the political process," LWVMO President Evelyn Maddox said. The League appreciates the work of Kathleen Farrell, Linda McDaniel and pro bono lawyers from the Advancement Project, ACLU, Demos, and Covington Burling LLP.

CELEBRATING THE LEAGUE'S CENTENNIAL

More than 150 guests enjoyed the 100th Anniversary banquet at the Sheldon Concert Hall on November 13. Guests saw the Sheldon's Green Room where early meetings of the suffragists who founded the League were held. Music was provided by Carolbeth True and Dawn Weber. Thanks to Agnes Garino for her research and two slideshows.

Betsey Bruce hosted the program to honor League presidents from the past 100 years. Pictured below are Kathleen Farrell, Nancy Ulman Thompson, K Wentzien, Brenda Banjak, Ida West, Carol Portman and Sydell Shayer (front row) and Nancy J. Miller, Louise Wilkerson, Linda McDaniel, Debby Howard, Pat Rich, Agnes Garino, Judith Arnold, Mary K. Brown and Gail Heyne-Hafer (back row). Nancy Bowser is not pictured. For K Wentzien's remarks, see page 4. For more photos, see page 3 or the website (lwvstl.org).



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As we approach Thanksgiving, we have so many things to be thankful for. What puts this front and center is, of course, the Gala. The planning, stewing, trips to the Sheldon, debates over the menu, table decorations, gifts and program was woven into a very successful League event. The honorees were the center of attention, greeting old friends and making new ones. We were happy that so many of them were able to attend. Each member of the Centennial Committee contributed to the success, but the event would not have happened without the contributions, memories, abilities and determination of our two senior members, Debby Waite Howard and Agnes Garino. Their encouragement gave the rest of us the prodding sometimes needed.

We are so grateful that Gay Gellhorn (pictured at right) was able to join us. We will be telling you more about her in the days ahead and she already has another trip planned to visit us this spring. The musicians were excellent, providing just the right backdrop for conversations and enjoying a wonderful meal. Several non-Leaguers said they didn't realize "this League did all those things." They were duly impressed by the accomplishments of the honorees read by Betsey Bruce. And of course, Betsey is a gem. Her pleasure at being there and participating in the honoring of remarkable women was evident in her warm smile. We can't forget Elena, our Girl Power Hero. So, yes, we are very thankful for the League and all that it was, is and will be.



Our holiday party on December 7th is a nice transition. This fall we have been busy with LWVMO meetings in Columbia and Sedalia, unit meetings, planning meetings, Speaker Bureau presentations and voter registrations. We have also been busy doing television, radio and Facebook live appearances. Many of you have been out gathering signatures for Prop P in the city and Medicaid Expansion across the state. State Senator Jill Schupp will be joining us for the holiday luncheon. She will be sharing her thoughts about the defense of Amendment 1, Medicaid Expansion, and other issues bound to come up in the 101st legislative session. There will be a time for questions, so be thinking about yours.

After our December hiatus, we begin again in January with units, committees and a trip to Jefferson City. As we head toward the municipal elections in April, there will be plenty to do. Please call or email the office if you are interested in helping at a forum, speaker presentation, trip to Jeff City, press conference, observing a municipal governance body, answering phones, etc. In the days when many of the honorees were busy accomplishing all sorts of things, there was an office staff of four or five. Much can be accomplished with many hands. Prepare for the exciting times ahead in 2020 and join us at the holiday luncheon.

—Nancy J. Miller, Louise T. Wilkerson, Co-Presidents

2019-20 LWVMSTL OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: Nancy J. Miller, Louise T. Wilkerson
First Vice President: Angie Dunlap
Second Vice President: Barbara Harris
Secretary: Nancy Price
Treasurer: Steve Smith

Directors: Angie Dunlap, Eve Golden, Joan Hubbard, Meredith Langlitz, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Anne Sappington, Sydell Shayer, Catherine Stenger, Carol Strawbridge, Sue Williams
Editors: Joan Esserman, Jean Dugan



St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson gave opening remarks lauding the League for its work.



Board members were asked to stand. This photo shows Steve Smith, Anne Sappington, Irma Ruebling and Joan Hubbard.



Nancy Miller asked 4th grader Elena Oliveira to share details of her Girl Power Club at Hudson Elementary School. Jennifer Rushing and Betsey Bruce are pictured at left.



Ida West



Sydell Shayer and Evelyn Maddox



Agnes Garino and Brenda Banjak

CENTENNIAL REMARKS FROM LEAGUE LEADER K WENTZIEN

“On behalf of the 21 past and present presidents who are here, as well as all of the others unable to attend [the November 13 banquet], I would like to thank you for recognizing us on this 100th Celebration of the birth of the League of Women Voters.

“As audacious as it sounds, and as impossible as it may seem, I am confident that I speak for all of us when I say we all prefer to thank the League of Women Voters for giving us the opportunity to serve.

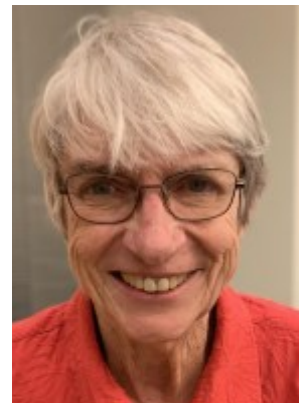
“Yes, we appreciated the agony and the ecstasy of planning, conducting, and living with the aftermath of interminable board meetings.

“Yes, we appreciated the ups and downs of getting smart, strong-minded people to work together to build consensus without destroying each other.

“Yes, we appreciated learning to handle the stress and risk of being the League’s spokesperson to the press. I particularly remember being in the League office during the “no dome in Riverport” campaign when a local TV reporter appeared unannounced smiling at the office door! When I saw him I jumped up and with arms open wide walked over to him and said, ‘Elliot Davis, I’m so glad to see you!’ He sobered up immediately and said “Oh, no, no one is supposed to be glad to see me.” And then we both laughed . . .

“But seriously, we all have stories of how we got here and all consider ourselves to be very fortunate to have had the amazing and inspiring people the League attracts in our lives. And we thank you all for that and for continuing and enhancing the incredible legacy of the League.

“And so it remains as relevant and vital to the richness of our constitutional federal republic as ever.”



K Wentzien

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OUT THE LEAGUE?

YOU ARE IN LUCK!!

With our busy election year coming up, we need members with a variety of skills and interests. Here is a short list:

Treasurer for LWVMO

Newsletter Layout

Letters to the Editor

Social Media

Speakers

Researchers

FREE TRAINING AVAILABLE

SPECIAL SUFFRAGE EVENT AT HISTORY MUSEUM MAY 3

The League is working with the Missouri History Museum on a special event in conjunction with the [Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage](#) exhibit on Sunday, May 3. Former LWV President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins will give a public presentation on her book, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*. Members of the League's Hundredth Anniversary \$100 Club will be invited to a special reception that afternoon. Members of the Hundred Dollar Club give a \$100 annual tax-deductible donation to support the League’s activities surrounding the Centennial of the League and the 19th Amendment. To join the Hundred Dollar Club, contact the office or go to lwvstl.org/support.



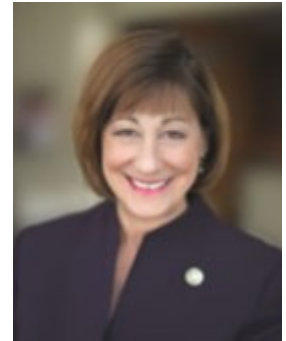
Angie Dunlap

The Centennial Committee is planning several other special events and activities to mark the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage in August 2020.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON IS DEC. 7

More than 70 Leaguers signed up before the Dec. 2 deadline to attend the annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 7. Senator Jill Schupp will share her expectations about legislative attempts to undo Clean Missouri's redistricting reforms and what measures may be on the ballot in August and November 2020 elections.

Bring an unwrapped children's book or buy a book to donate to Grace Hill or Circle of Concern for their holiday parties for families. The League will be selling the commemorative wine glasses for \$5 and suffragist pins with a magnetic back for \$10.



Jill Schupp

SUPPORT A LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

In support of League efforts locally, statewide and nationally for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), the St. Louis LWV is starting a fund that will give would-be members in strained financial circumstances a League membership. Monies for the fund will be supplied by member donations. Please consider making a donation for this membership fund this holiday season. I will be at the Holiday Luncheon taking donations. Also, you can send a donation into the League office; just send a note designating it is for the membership fund. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The LWVSTL already has a reduced rate of \$55 for people to join the League if they are in financial need. We also have an online \$7/month dues payment option. This membership fund adds to our efforts to make sure that anyone who wants to be active with the League can.

—Angie Dunlap, Membership Chair

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE UPDATE

As you all know by past reports I post in the In League Reporter, our National Popular Vote Committee is working very hard to see that the next Missouri legislative session has the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact introduced. This legislation will, if passed, join the other 15 states that have already passed the Compact. I believe that the bill will be introduced this session. Legislators may pre-file bills starting December 1st and then file bills in the regular session until mid-March. Getting a bill introduced is just the beginning. As we all know from past experience, after a bill is introduced, it needs to be assigned to a committee and the committee should schedule a hearing. To get to this stage, enough legislators must support the bill, organizations and individuals including the League and its members will need to educate the voters, testify before committees, and let their legislators know that electing the president by a national popular vote is the way to make democracy work. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the popular vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. Stay tuned.

— Sydell Shayer



The St. Charles Unit drew a nice crowd with its first Civic Cocktails event at Third Wheel Brewing in St. Peters.

YOUNG(ISH) FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE HAVE FIRST MEETING

A dozen members gathered at the Mid-County branch of St. Louis County Library on election night to strategize about the formation of a new group aimed at young adults, working professionals, parents and the young at heart. While we're not locked into the name yet, there was enthusiasm for putting together a group that meets outside of work hours and planning future activities.

The group plans to meet next on **January 16 at the Mid-County Library in Clayton**. Agenda items that night include planning some kind of information session on election audits, brainstorming about how to get Americans 35 and under to the polls and a training on how to use the League's new equipment to livestream candidate forums. Interested in more information? Email Meredith Langlitz at meredith.langlitz@gmail.com.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY RICHMAN

Lifetime League member Shirley Richman passed away recently. The obituary in the *Jewish Light* said, "Her lobbying efforts on behalf of the League of Women Voters sent her to Jefferson City on countless occasions. She had a passion for grassroots activism that she shared with her children, bringing them to political rallies to hear progressive candidates.

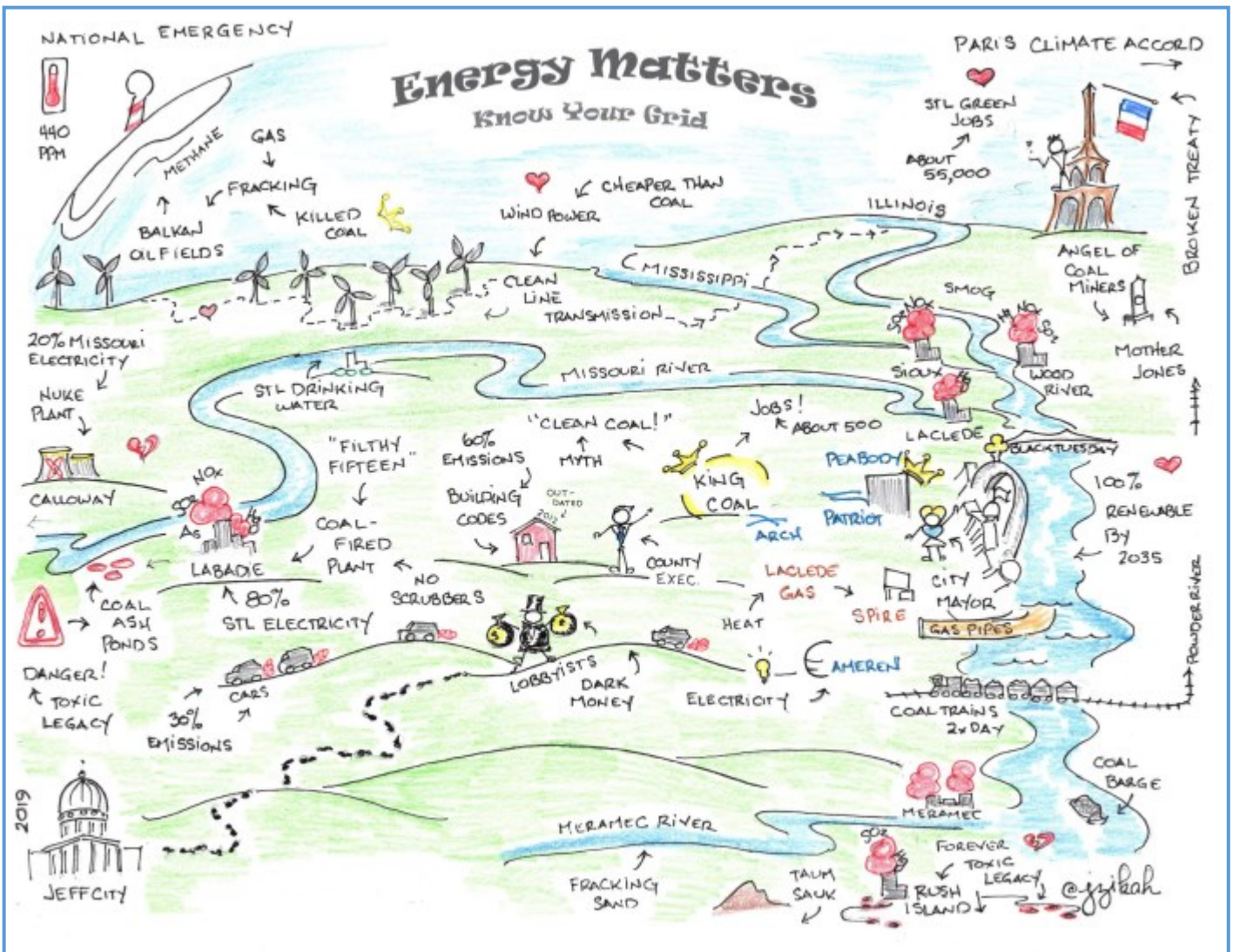
"She was dedicated to making a quiet impact on the world, leaving it a better place for her having been here. She believed we have an obligation to this country and the world, and she encouraged her family to be both engaged and informed in current affairs."



Congrats to all the Centennial Banquet honorees. Special thanks to Linda McDaniel and Kathleen Farrell for their dedication and their commitment to the League in the past, present and future.



—Julie Behrens



Members of the Environmental Quality Committee continue to study all elements of our environment, how they affect our lives and the changes we can make to improve our environment. See map key on Page 7.

NEWS FROM THE BORDER from Angie O’Gorman

You may have heard that President Trump’s Migrant Protection Protocols are preventing most migrants from entering our southern border and thus from applying for asylum. Those intending to enter at El Paso are now stranded in tents in Ciudad Juarez, or other border cities in Mexico.

You may have seen pictures of these “tent cities” on parking lots, dead end streets, parks, etc. As far as I know Mexico is not providing support services such as food, water, or bathroom facilities. To see a report of the latest goings on at the border go to: https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/December_Border_Report.pdf

The Border Awareness Coordinator at Annunciation House in El Paso, Chris Davis, has openings for groups to visit the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez border area in April and May of 2020. Please let Angie O’Gorman at ogorman4400@yahoo.com know if you are interested in being part of such an immersion experience from people with experience of what is happening in Ciudad Juarez as more asylum seekers are forced to live on the streets.

ENERGY MATTERS

The map on page 7 attempts to capture the balancing act between cheap energy, a healthy environment, workers' rights and jobs. St. Louis is a fascinating study of the intersection between people, climate and energy. The Energy Matters Map was created by Jessica Hoagland, with feedback from the League's Environmental Quality Committee. Please review and direct inquiries or clarifications to the Environmental Quality Committee, through Mickey Croyle, chair at erwincroyle@charter.net.

Building Codes - The 2009 Saint Louis County building codes lag international standards for energy efficiency.

Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards - Federal policy requiring cars to go at least 54.5 mpg by 2025 is being reduced.

Callaway - Nuclear power plant located upstream on the Missouri River, providing roughly 20% of Missouri's energy.

Coal Barge - Many of the barges coming down the Mississippi River are filled with coal, mined from the Powder River Basin in Montana.

Coal Ash - Coal ash is the waste left after coal is burned. It is the largest type of industrial waste in America and a "forever" legacy threat to drinking water.

Clean Line Transmission - Technically called the Grain Belt Express Clean Line, it's the wind power plan for the Midwest, newly-acquired by Invenergy.

Clean Power Plan - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plan to reduce carbon emissions 30% by 2030 was rolled back in 2019.

Coal Trains - Coal trains come from Wyoming to coal-fired plants in Missouri.

Jobs - Coal generates about 500 jobs in Missouri while clean energy generates about 55,000 jobs.

Labadie - This coal-fired plant generates about 80% of the electricity for St. Louis; it has no scrubbers, which earned it a position on the "filthy 15" list.

Meramec - Coal-fired plant located on the Meramec River; it has no scrubbers.

Paris Climate Accord - International treaty designed to stop global warming at 2 degrees Celsius, from which Donald Trump withdrew.

Rush Island - Improperly handled coal ash from Rush Island has permanently contaminated wetlands and water supplies near Crystal City. Coal ash spills are almost impossible to clean up and present a significant threat to drinking water.

Sioux - Coal-fired plant visible on the Illinois River, providing energy to Missouri.

Smog - Term invented in London, meaning fog + smoke. Now it means pollution + ozone. Coal-fired plants are the largest creators of smog.

Spire - Rebranded name for Laclede Gas. Most STL homes are heated by natural gas, delivered via pipeline down the middle of the Mississippi River.

Taum Sauk - Hydroelectric plant that suffered a mishap in 2005, damaging the Black Fork River as well as Johnson Shut-Ins.

Wood River - Coal-fired plant on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

Nicole Burgdorf (pictured below in the Sheldon's Green Room) wrote a fascinating history of the St. Louis League that was printed in the 100th banquet program. "The founders thought the League would only be necessary for about five years until women grew accustomed to voting," it says. "But here we are, one hundred years later, still fighting to make voting fair for everyone."



I knew that the past presidents honored at the Nov. 13 banquet had worked hard, but the script and program shared several accomplishments that were news to me. For example, I didn't know Peggy Vickroy was mayor of Creve Coeur or that Carol Portman was responsible for establishing the League as the single designated organization to register new voters at naturalization ceremonies.

Elaine Blodgett was unable to attend, but shared her "hope that we keep up the same energy as the first 100 years, and know that voting is always our first job." Also unable to attend was Alfreda Brown. She thanks the metro league for the honor of being chosen and wishes everyone well.

I continue to be impressed by the League members who are working to register voters, fight voter suppression and support election reforms. The League's second century and democracy depends on you!

Happy holidays!

—Jean Dugan

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The League depends on many volunteers to accomplish all the tasks we do. Thanks this month to Sue Allen, Marie Andel, Alfreda Anderson, Connie Anthony, Mary Archer, Liz Aurbach, Dayle Banett, Nicki Batchelor, Cindy Bausola, Julie Behrens, Carolyn Beimdiek, Carole Bendet, Sandy Berthold, Cynthia Biehle, Patricia Bishop, Marguerite Bogle, Annetta Booth, Lucy Brennan, Stefany Brot, Kathy Brown, Mary Brown, Robert Brown, Nicole Burgdorf, Sharon Campione, Christine Capstick, Pam Carmell, Marilyn Chambers, Jean Chase, Becky Clausen, Karen Cloyd, Carrie Crompton, Mickey Croyle, Don & Gail Crozier, Alicia Davis, Jill Davis, Joanne Davis, Winifred Deavens, Katie Dionne, Mary Domahidy, Brian Dugan, Angie Dunlap, Terry Dunlap, Christine Eason, Janet Edwards, Barb Ehnies, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Linda Fiehler, Susan Fluegel, Cynthia and Patrick Fox, Carol Frohlichstein, Julie Gaebe, Gloria Garidel, Agnes Garino, Mary Jo Geary, Eve Golden, Yvette Goods, Margaret Gray, Anne Handley-Fierce, Barbara Harris, Virginia Hartley, Roslyn Harvey, Sheila Hayes, Nancy Hirsch, Debby Howard, Joan Hubbard, Lisa Humphreys, Nancy and Gene Hutchins, Donald Jeffries, Chris Jones, Pat Jones, Kathy Kane, Danielle Kimbrel, Diane Koop, Kelly Kress, Renate Langer, Meredith Langlitz, Rebecca Langrall, Ruth Lee, Mary Leopold, Dorothy Lockard, Ellen Looby, Jo Ludwig, Marilyn Marcus, Christy Marshall, Donna McCarrison, Linda McDaniel, Ken McKelvie, Kathleen Maret, Debbie Mason, Cindy Menkins, Harry Meyer, Kay Meyer, Mary Ann Meyer, Cynthia Miller, Marian Miller, Nancy Miller, Becky Minogue, Barbara Mitchell, Cindy Mitchell, Patricia Moran, Gretchen Moser, Susan Murray, Rebecca Now, Jitka Olander, Eileen Pacino, Joyce Patton, Nancy Pawol, Sharon Poe, Sherri Pogue, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Kathy Quinn, Kathe Quigley, Peggy Robb, Cheryl Roland, Ann Ross, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Haley Sante, Anne Sappington, Joe Schartz, Yvonne Schlote, Jo Seltzer, Molly Shaller, Sydel Shayer, Becky Shimony, Judith Smart, Steve Smith, Diann Spencer, Laura Staley, Catherine Stenger, Loretta Striplin, Carol Strawbridge, Claire Stolz, Beth Sturgeon, Elaine Sweeney, Penney Thomas, Pam Todorovich, Sabrina Tyuse, Peggy Voss, Sharon Wells, Louise Wilkerson, Sue Williams, Karen Wilmore, Katherine Witzig, Cindy Wunderlich, Macon Wurthmann, Judi Yokum, Iva Youkilis and Rafia Zafar.

Please contact Barbara Harris at volunteer@LWVstl.org if you have time to volunteer in the office. Look for the yellow sign-in sheet on a clipboard by the front desk that we use to track our volunteers' hours. Let us know if we missed your name and we will thank you in the next newsletter.

WELCOME, NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS!

Renee Benage St. Louis, MO 63135 rbenage@sbcglobal.net	Sarah Birdsall St. Louis, MO 63108-2346 sbbirdsall@gmail.com	Joanne Davis St. Louis, MO 63116 petlove031@hotmail.com
Kate & Kelly Hatfield St. Louis, MO 63131 darstk@gmail.com	Kay Hoffman St. Louis, MO 63119 kayhoff@yahoo.com	Kristine Ilgenfritz St. Louis, MO 63119 kris.ilgenfritz@gmail.com
Amy Inman St. Louis, MO 63122 amyinman@yahoo.com	Debbie Katz St. Louis, MO 63108 dkatz56@gmail.com	Katie & Chris Molitor Kirkwood, MO 63122 themolitors@gmail.com
Allyn O'Byrne St. Louis, MO 63109 a.obyrne@yahoo.com	Maryellen Picker St. Louis, MO 63105 mepicker3@gmail.com	Jenny Potashnick Chesterfield, MO 63005 jopotashnick@gmail.com
Ruth Powell Kirkwood, MO 63122 rmpow@earthlink.net	Patricia Reavis St. Louis, MO 63104 Treavis30@gmail.com	Lorraine Ross Florissant, MO 63031 sistagirl88@yahoo.com
Kathleen Wortman St. Charles, MO 63304 kwiattitude@aol.com		

ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY UPDATE AND REMINDER

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports the abolition of the death penalty. This position was adopted by concurrence at the 2006 national convention. I think it was the Illinois League's position that we concurred with. LWVIL is very forward-looking and has brought several issues before the convention for concurrence. Presently 21 states have abolished the death penalty. Of the remaining states, half have not executed anyone in many years, becoming non-execution states in practice.

The federal government hasn't executed anyone since 2003, having had a moratorium on the death penalty for many years. It was lifted in 1976. Public support for the death penalty has decreased since that time and is down to 50 percent. However President Trump announced he plans to reinstate it. A federal judge disagrees and has halted executions, but the administration is expected to appeal.

—Sydell Shayer, Chair, Death Penalty Committee

UNIT MEETINGS

Units not meeting in December will resume in January

North County: January 14, 4:30 pm. Rock Road branch of STL Co. Library, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd., St. Ann. Contact Louise Wilkerson, 314-438-8005, louisew@scglobal.net

St. Louis City: Contact Kathleen Farrell, 314-773-2876, kathleenfarrell@earthlink.net

Missouri Women's Network Legislative Retreat

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment!

Saturday, January 18, 2020 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

or Saturday January 25 if the first date is cancelled by a weather event



Free Event!

**Hy Vee
25 Conley Rd.
Columbia, MO 65201**

Tentative Schedule:

- 8:30-9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-9:45 Fast Democracy Training
- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00-Noon Presentations and Pre-filed 2020 Bills Discussion
- Noon-12:45 Lunch on your own at the Hy Vee
- 1:00-2:00 Set 2020 Legislative Priorities

Invite a Progressive Friend to Attend!

ORGANIZATION _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Mail your registration by **January 12, 2020** to Pat Shores, 5337 Trailhead Court, Eureka, MO 63025
For info email apatriciashores@att.net or call 636-448-4387

*FOR YOUR CALENDAR: Equity Action Day,
Jefferson City, Tuesday, March 31, 2020*

DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Centennial: December 9, 4pm. Contact: Nancy Miller, 314-961-6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Environmental Quality: January 28, 1 p.m. Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314-395-7876 or erwin-croyle@charter.net

Health Care: December 19, 5:30. Contact: Irma Ruebling, 314-330-9063 or irma.ruebling@slu.edu

Policing Study Group: December 11, 3 pm. Contact: Mary Leopold, 314-991-5958 or mary.muldoon.leopold@gmail.com

City-County Governance Study Group: December 16, 6 pm. Contact: Debby Howard, 314-434-3073 or jackhowe@swbell.net



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18	Women’s March planned, details coming soon
January 18	Missouri Women’s Network Legislative Retreat, 8:30 a.m., Hy Vee, at 25 Conley Road in Columbia, MO
March 21	Trivia Night, 1st Congregational Church, Webster Groves, 6:30 p.m.
April 18	Annual Meeting, The Heights 8001 Dale Ave, Richmond Heights
May 3	Reception and tour of Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage exhibit , time TBD., Missouri History Museum, Forest Park, STL
June 25-28	LWVUS National Convention, Washington, D.C.
August 26	Women’s Equality Day, 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment