TRIVIA NIGHT’S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

Did you know that Feb. 15 is the 199th anniversary of Susan B. Anthony’s birth? It’s also the night for the annual League trivia fundraiser, the biggest fundraiser of the year. Dan Dillon will again present trivia at the First Congregational Church in Webster Groves. Doors open at 6:30 with trivia starting at 7 pm. The price is right — $25 per person, which allows the League to do the many services and events we do to empower voters. Paper Airplane Contest, Heads or Tails, Dead or Alive and excellent company all combine with snacks, games, raffles and trivia! Help make this fun event a complete success!

★ Round up a team of 10 and buy a table ($250).
★ Buy ticket(s) for $25 per person. We can place you at a table if you don’t have a team of 10.
★ Volunteer to help before or after you play.
★ Sponsor a round—we will place your name/logo on the answer sheet; it will be projected on the screen, and announced the night of the event. Publicity for you; support for us ($150).

Go to lwvstl.org to sign up. To volunteer, contact the League office at 314-961-6869 or league@lwvstl.org. Popcorn, chocolates, sodas and water are provided. You’re welcome to bring alcohol or other food.

WOMEN MARCH, ACT, VOTE

Members came to the League office to make posters for the Jan. 19 St. Louis Women’s March. The League sponsored the march to let women of all races and religions know about the League’s work to educate and empower voters. Louise Wilkerson staffed a table at the Action Fair and Kathy Kane carried the banner.

Attendees also filled out postcards to send to their Missouri legislators asking them to Respect Missouri Voters and uphold all the legislative reforms in Amendment 1. Come by the office to pick up post cards. Contact info for elected officials is available at www.lwvstl.org.

The office was busy on Jan. 19 at the poster/post card party.
The new year is certainly underway, coming in like a lion. As we look ahead and prepare for the upcoming months, I am reminded of two things: First, things will change and second, things will never go exactly the way we wish. With the legislative session underway, we are seeing old issues revisited, new issues appear and issues we thought were settled become unsettled. Our priorities never change as they keep reappearing! So, our issue committees are continuing their studies and advocacy. The Policing Committee has two new co-chairs, so they will be setting up a meeting date and time soon. Health Care, Education, Environmental Quality, Early Voting and National Popular Vote are studying, planning and advocating for their issues. They would all welcome new members.

Our Amendment 1 task force is starting the push back to the Missouri legislature and governor for their non-acceptance of the Amendment 1 election results. Last Friday in the office, members and guests created signs to carry in the St Louis Women’s March 2019 and they wrote postcards to legislators requesting respect for the decision of the voters. In every senatorial district in Missouri, the majority of voters approved Amendment 1 to clean up the Missouri Legislature. And yet, during the first week of the 100th Legislature, the Missouri House of Representatives voted to exempt themselves from the Sunshine Law requirements of Amendment 1. We need to be reminding them of the votes of their constituents and reminding the voters of what their legislators think of their opinions. If you would like to write a postcard or ten, call the office to make sure we have copies ready and then drop by to write some or pick them up. Take them with you to other groups: your committee, your units, your friends; I’m taking them to my Sunday school class!

Another big effort is preparations for this Centennial Year. See the flyer on Page 8 for details. The 100 Club for 100 Years is growing in membership at 55+ right now. Join us and show your support for the Centennial. Events begin with the important fundraiser Trivia Night on February 15 and continue through August 2020.

Several coalitions of organizations committed to protecting voter rights, expanding accessibility to the voting process and working toward restoring the 1965 Voting Rights Act are meeting in the next month to plan events and strategies. We will keep you posted.

During the winter months, local Leagues gather input and identify which issues should be included in the new program for 2019-2020 at the local level and 2019-2021 at the state level. In the Metro league, Kirkwood/Webster Groves, Creve Coeur/Chesterfield, South County, North County units and a small group from University City/Clayton met and discussed their recommendations. It is hoped that a larger group from U. City/Clayton and the St. Louis City unit will be able to add their voices to the discussion before the board meets to make the final recommendations for the membership to consider in April for Metro and May for Missouri.

Nomination committees for the board of directors for Missouri and Metro are also finalizing the slate for elections at the meetings in April and May. The committees’ recommendations will go to the existing boards for approval before being placed before the membership.

Presidents’ Message Continued on Page 3

Alexis White is the new League intern. Nancy’s granddaughter is a student at Northwestern.
LET US RAISE UP A LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Carrie Lane grew up in Wisconsin and graduated from Iowa State College (now University). She was a high school principal in Mason City for two years before becoming superintendent of schools, one of the first women to hold such a position. Her first marriage to Leo Chapman, an editor, ended with his untimely death in 1886. From 1887 to 1890 she organized the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. In 1890 she was an Iowa delegate to the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). That was the first meeting after the merger of the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association. That same year, she married George W. Catt with a prenuptial agreement providing her with four months of free time each year to work exclusively for woman suffrage. George Catt encouraged and supported his wife’s dedication until his death in 1905, at which time he left her financially independent to devote the rest of her life to reform activities.

NAWSA used her vibrant voice and forceful ideas as an organizer and leader. Presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson did not endorse the federal suffrage amendment, but accepted Catt’s invitation to the 1916 convention and told the delegates the suffrage movement “has not only come to stay, but has come with conquering power.” At the time, women in 12 states had at least presidential suffrage.

At NAWSA’s 50th Anniversary Jubilee Convention in St. Louis in 1919, she suggested to fellow suffragists, “Let us then raise up a league of women voters.” She challenged the women to stay on the battlefield as an army of citizens to “finish the fight” for needed changes in customs, laws and education.

A year later, at the 1920 Victory Convention in Chicago, NAWSA voted to reconstitute NAWSA as the League of Women Voters, an ongoing organization to secure political education and improved legislation. Retiring after passage of the 19th amendment, Catt served as honorary president until her death in 1947.

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Presidents’ Message Continued from Page 2

Our February unit topic will be Early Voting/ Proposed Legislation presented by Early Voting Chair Joan Hubbard and her committee. The times, dates and meeting places for units are in this issue on page 9.

And the spring election season has begun! Mark Schlinkman from the Post-Dispatch brought some of the lists by the office this week, and others arrived via email. Barbara Harris has already scheduled eight Candidate Forums and is needing workers!

As you can see, we have quite a bit going on and we are grateful for your support and participation in these efforts. At our New Member Orientation on Jan. 16, planned and cooked by Angie Dunlap, 24 new members learned about Metro and signed up for various groups and efforts they are interested in. We hope that you, too, are looking for ways you might get involved. Just give us a call – we’d love to have you! It’s warm in the office and we have treats!!

—Co-Presidents Nancy J. Miller and Louise T. Wilkerson
GIVE OUR NATIVE POLLINATORS A HELPING HAND

When you hear the word pollinator, the honey bee is probably what first comes to mind, but the honey bee, an introduced species to the U.S., is largely managed by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers today. On the other hand, there are over 470 native species of bees found within Missouri alone, including leaf-cutter, mason and bumble bees. Honey bees pollinate crops, but our native pollinators not only have a role in agriculture, they also are important pollinators of our gardens and natural habitats. Some studies have shown that native pollinators are better at the job than honey bees. The solitary bees do not make honey, so they predominantly collect pollen and not nectar to take back to their nest.

Native pollinators are also susceptible to decline and die-out due to pesticides, lack of habitat and nutritional sources, and disease, and they are not managed to mitigate those losses, as honey bees are, for example, by splitting hives and breeding hardier queens.

We can help our native pollinators by planting gardens with plants and trees that bloom throughout the growing season and that vary in size and shape, since native pollinators tend to be “specialists” visiting only certain kinds of blossoms. Also, we can provide nesting habitats for bees, such as bare ground for digger and sweat bees and wood and dried plant stems for leaf-cutter and carpenter bees. Some four to seven species of native pollinators do not make their own nests, but instead rely on found holes. You can purchase a bee habitat to provide appropriate nesting holes to attract them. They can be found in hardware stores and seed-and-feed stores. I’ve purchased Bee Barns from www.isabees.com. Put them out when the forsythia blooms and store them in your unheated garage when the temperatures drop. For the most part, native bees are solitary and do not share their nests (or holes). Because they do not have a large hive to defend, they are not aggressive and will not sting if you approach their nesting site.

— Karen Brawn, member, Environmental Quality Committee

EQ Tip for February: Help save native pollinators this spring by giving bees a nesting place. Plant milkweed or other native plants and protect grasslands.

DID YOU KNOW?

LWV Metro STL has joined several coalitions working on regional environmental issues. The League is one of 15 groups that comprise the MSD Rate Commission that makes recommendations to the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) Board of Trustees regarding all proposed changes in wastewater rates, storm water rates and tax rates or the change in the structure of any of the foregoing rate. Mickey Croyle is the League delegate. Watch for upcoming information on the Proposition S for the April 2 ballot in the March ILR. At the January meeting, the LWV Metro STL board voted to support Proposition S using our Natural Resource Positions on waste management, water quality and sewer.

The League is an active member of the Missouri Clean Energy Coalition with two recent successes: Energy Efficient Building Codes for the City of St Louis and a St. Louis City pledge to become 100% Clean Energy. Working with Missouri Coalition for the Environment and other groups, the League testified to the EPA on the West Lake Landfill.

Mary Archer serves on the St. Louis County’s Commission on Solid Waste Management and Missouri Recycling Association (MORA). Many League members are active with the Sierra Club. Several EQ members serve on environmental and recycling committees for their churches.
SUPPORT EARLY VOTING

The League’s Early Voting Committee discussed several ways to make it easier for Missouri citizens to vote. Members agreed to advocate for no-excuse absentee voting.

Rep. Peter Merideth (D-80) is sponsoring HJR5 to create an early voting period and add satellite voting sites. Voting could be in-person or by mail starting the sixth Tuesday prior to election day. His bill would also allow automatic voter registration.

Joan Hubbard chairs the Early Voting Committee. Contact her at joanhubbard@prodigy.net.

VOTER PLEDGE CARDS WELL RECEIVED

League volunteers have very recently begun asking newly registered voters to fill out "Pledge to Vote" cards on which they give us either their email or a phone number. They agree to have the League of Women Voters send them three reminders before an election.

The correspondences will direct new voters how to go about checking their voter registration in time to re-register if needed. Closer to election time, reminders will provide access to vote411 and encourage them to vote.

After the last two naturalization ceremonies, over 75% of the newly registered citizens filled out our new cards.

PLEDGE to VOTE!

Congrats! You are registered. Now do not forget to vote. Sign up and receive reminders before each election!

Name: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________

Or cell phone: ____________________

JOIN THE LEAGUE’S 100 CLUB

To celebrate the League’s centennial and kick off the next century, the League would like to invite you to join the Hundredth Anniversary Hundred Dollar Club. Club membership is a $100 tax-deductible donation to the League. Members get a special reduced rate at two upcoming events: a March 24 tea and a May 2 Suffragist Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery.

The guest speaker at the Centennial Tea at the St. Louis Woman’s Club is former First Lady and U.S. Senator Jean Carnahan who will reflect on the changing role of women in Missouri politics. Cost is $30 or $15 for Club members.

Cemetery Guide Mary Ellen Vander Linden will give a presentation dressed as Edna Fischel Gellhorn, the first president of LWVMO and three-term president of the St. Louis League. Other suffragists buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery in North County include Virginia Minor (the first president of Missouri’s Woman Suffragette Association), Rebecca Naylor Hazard (an abolitionist and part of the Women’s Congress) and Phoebe Couzins (an electrifying speaker who traveled across the country with Susan B. Anthony to promote women’s suffrage). There will be two one-hour tours as well as refreshments. Cost is $20 or $10 for Club members.

The Centennial Committee is also working to display our life-size suffragist cut-out in several area libraries with educational bookmarks on the battle for women’s suffrage. Other Centennial events include a costume parade by the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis during the LWVMO state convention May 3-4 and a banquet in November to honor past League leaders.

Thanks to Agnes and Dave Garino for kicking off this effort with a very generous contribution. You can sign up for these two events now at lwvstl.org.

Members’ input is always welcome. If you have any questions or suggestions about centennial events, please call the office at 314.961.6869.
DEATH PENALTY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Two anti-death penalty bills have been introduced in this session of the Missouri legislature. Senate Bill 32 was introduced by Senator Paul Wieland (R-22) and House Bill 64 by Representative Sarah Unsicker (D-91). The bills will abolish the death penalty with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment without parole. Anyone sentenced before August 18th may not be sentenced to death. These bills have been assigned to committee. Similar bills have been introduced annually for many years. Unfortunately they never made it to the floor, but got pretty close one year.

—Sydell Shayer, Death Penalty Chair

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE (NPV)

The NPV Committee is busy meeting frequently. Our main objective is to get a bipartisan bill introduced in both houses of the legislature. In addition we are preparing more resources for publication. We encourage members to send letters to the editor of your local community newspapers using the resource material that we previously provided. The St. Louis American recently printed my op-ed. It’s available on the League website at http://lwvstl.org/Positions.html.

—Sydell Shayer, NPV Chair
CELEBRATE THE ST. LOUIS LEAGUE’S CENTENNIAL

Trivia Night

WHEN
Susan B. Anthony’s 199th birthday
February 15, 2019
6:30 - 10 p.m.

WHERE
First Congregational Church
10 W. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves MO 63119

Tickets $25 each
Table Sponsor $250
Round Sponsor $150
Pay online at www.lwvstl.org

Centennial Tea

WHEN
March 24, 1 - 4 p.m.

Speaker: The Hon. Jean Carnahan will reflect on the changing role of women in Missouri politics.

WHERE
The St. Louis Woman’s Club
4600 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

COST
$30 each
$15 for 100 Club Members

Note: On March 24, 1919, Carrie Chapman Catt suggested to fellow suffragists, “Let us then raise up a league of women voters.”

Suffragist Cemetery Tour

WHEN
May 2, 1 pm presentation by Mary Ellen Vander Linden as Edna Gellhorn. Tours at 2 and 3 p.m.

WHERE
Bellefontaine Cemetery
4947 W Florissant Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63115

COST
$20 each
$10 for 100 Club Members

Limit: 56 people

100th Banquet

November 2019

Note: The St. Louis League was established on Nov. 13, 1919.

More details to come
NEW CENTENNIAL WARES

LWV of Missouri is promoting merchandise to Leagues across the country designed by Myrna Ragar (pictured at left). Besides the centennial pin and other great items available for purchase at www.lwvmissouri.org, there are new life-sized, full-color cutouts of a suffragist and a flapper.

All of the profit on sale of these items goes to LWVMO. Long-time League member Mary Merritt works with Myrna at Ragar Banners in Sedalia.

Stop by the office at 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, to buy most items on the flyer pictured below and avoid the $8 minimum shipping charge.
UNIT MEETINGS

February unit topic - Early Voting/Proposed Legislation

Chesterfield/Creve Coeur: Thursday, Feb. 14, 9:30-11 am. Sydell Shayer’s home at 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Eve Golden, 314.469.9985 or j.golden@sbcglobal.net

North County: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5 to 7 pm. Florissant Valley Library (room 3), 195 New Florissant Rd. S., Florissant, MO. Contact: Louise Wilkerson, 314.438.8005 or louisew@scglobal.net

St. Charles: TBA. Contact: Jennifer Rushing or jrush1120@live.com

St. Louis City: Saturday, Feb. 9, 10:30 am. Trinity Church, Euclid and Washington. Contact: Kathleen Farrell, 314.773.2876 or kathleenfarrell@earthlink.net

South County; Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6:00 pm. South County Police Precinct, 323 Sappington Barracks Rd. Contact: Angie Dunlap, 636.368.6846 or aok2bfast@hotmail.com

University City/Clayton Unit: Feb. 11, 5 pm. U. City Library conference room. Contact Nancy Miller, 314.961.6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Webster/Kirkwood: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 9:30 am. First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 W. Lockwood Ave. Contact: K Wentzien, 314.961.0894 (home), 314.805.6950 (cell) or suitsme.prodigy.net

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings below will be held at the League office at 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, Brentwood

Centennial: Feb. 5, 4 pm. Contact Nancy Miller, 314.961.6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Early Voting: Feb. 5, 2 pm. Contact Joan Hubbard, 314-753-0689 or joanhubbard@prodigy.net

Education: Saturday, Feb. 23, 10 am. Contact Nancy Miller, njsmill@yahoo.com

Environmental Quality: April 18, 4:30 pm. Note article p. 3. Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314.395.7876 or erwincroyle@charter.net

Health Care: Tuesday, Feb. 19, 5:30 pm. Contact: Irma Ruebling, 314.961.4539 or ruebling@att.net

National Popular Vote: Tuesday, Feb. 5th, Noon. Note article p. 4. Contact Sydell Shayer, 314-434-5116 or slshayer@gmail.com.

Policing Study Group: Contact: Kathy Brown, kathytonb@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

The League needs help at more than a dozen candidate forums as well as with preparing and distributing the Voters Guide for the April 2 local elections. Forums for school board candidates are scheduled for Feb. 7 in Ritenour, Feb. 21 in Brentwood, March 4 in Rockwood, March 7 in Hazelwood, March 11 in Kirkwood, March 14 in Jennings and March 26 in Parkway. We plan to have VOTE411.org go live before the March 5 St. Louis city primary.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Geistler  
Ballwin MO 63011  
jbyingtongeistler@yahoo.com

Janet Kester  
Wentzville MO 63385  
jKester6@gmail.com

Elaine Sweeney  
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ELAINESW@sbcglobal.net

Mark Premont  
Ft. Leonard Wood MO 65473  
mark.premont@gmail.com

Jo Seltzer  
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seltjejl@swbell.net

Penney Thomas  
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penneythomas@gmail.com

Jill Brown  
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Jillbrown.stl@gmail.com

Gayle Derouin  
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Ellen Dreyer  
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ed@eileendreyer.com

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blreddick@yahoo.com

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bobjan34@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Thompson  
St. Louis MO 63143

Pamela Kelley  
St. Charles MO 63301  
pck928@yahoo.com

Ann Carole Gaspar  
St. Louis MO 63105  
stierholz@gmail.com

Katrina Stierholz  
St. Louis MO 63112

Mary Weinstock  
St. Louis MO 63124  
mweinstock241@gmail.com

BE A PART OF LOBBY DAYS IN JEFFERSON CITY

The League is a part of Missouri Health Care for All. The coalition is hosting lobby days to advocate for expanding Medicaid on Feb. 13, April 2 and May 1. To RSVP, call 877-383-8884 or mohealth@mohealthcareforall.org. Carpools leave from the Trader Joe’s at Brentwood Promenade at 6:45 am.

The Missouri Women’s Network’s Equity Action Day is scheduled for April 16. Contact Patricia Shores at apatriciashores@att.net.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is having an Advocacy Day on Feb. 19. It starts at 10 am at the Doubletree at 422 Monroe in Jefferson City.

Watch for construction on Missouri’s Capitol building.

JULIE BEHREN IS RETIRING

Join us at the League office for a Farewell Party  
Thursday, February 28th, 11:30 am — 2:00 pm
ED REFLECTIONS

2019 is looking to be an exciting year as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of both the Metro St. Louis League and LWV of Missouri. League history includes many great stories we hope to share with the public. I’ve had a brief peek at the League archives stored at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and hope to update those archives with files from the last few decades.

We’re also looking to modernize for the League’s second century using the $10,000 grant from the Roblee Foundation. The first step was purchasing 10 iPads to use for voter registration. Next we’re looking at possible updates for the phone and email systems as well as improving the League’s web sites.

The biggest change to the office will come at the end of February when Julie Behrens retires. She truly is a Jill-of-all-trades who has been a great asset to the League. Her knowledge and wit will be greatly missed. The Joint Office board plans to interview for the revamped office assistant position in February.

—Jean Dugan, Executive Director

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The new year is starting up with many requests for our volunteers who generously give of their time & talents. League members are busy with 16 Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, unit meetings and various committees in addition to all the other projects we are pursuing. Please consider offering your talents to the League. If you have time to offer, please contact Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator, at volunteer@LWVstl.org.


When you attend a board meeting, please remember to sign the volunteer book in the office so we have a record of our volunteers’ hours. If you are a member of a League committee we would like to keep track of the time you spend on League activities. Please let the office know so we can add your name to our volunteer list. If we neglected to list your name, please let us know and we will thank you in the next newsletter.
2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Trivia Night, 6:30 doors open, 7 pm trivia begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>Metro St. Louis Board Meeting, 4:30 pm</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Centennial Tea at St. Louis Woman’s Club, 1pm</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Centennial of Missouri law on women’s suffrage</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Suffrage Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery, 1 pm</td>
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<td>May 3-4</td>
<td>LWMVO State Convention, St. Louis</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
<td>Centennial of Congress passing the 19th Amendment</td>
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<td>July 3</td>
<td>Centennial of Missouri ratification of the 19th Amendment</td>
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<td>Oct. 16-18</td>
<td>Centennial of Missouri League of Women Voters</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Centennial of St. Louis League</td>
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