

IN LEAGUE REPORTER

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104 St. Louis, MO 63144 314-961-6869 <u>http://www.lwvstl.org/</u> <u>www.facebook.com/lwvstl</u> @LWVSTL **March 2020**

ELECTION PROTECTION RAMPS UP

The League is proud to be part of the Missouri Voter Coalition working to ensure that every eligible voter can cast a ballot in 2020 elections. Election Protection volunteers are working "365 days to Advance and Defend Your Right to Vote."

Voter helplines are live across the nation at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Volunteer lawyers will be staffing that hotline before each election.

Missouri's Voter Protection Coalition is seeking volunteers to put a yard sign with the hotline number in front of each polling place before the March 10 presidential primary. Contact Jennifer Lohman at jennifer@stlvpc.org if you can help with that effort. Signs will be available to pick up in the League office.

To sign up to be a volunteer election monitor at polling places in August or November, go to ProtecttheVote.net. The League will be hosting trainings for poll monitors in July and October. To be added to the Election Protection e-mail list, text "movpc" to 66866.



JOIN US IN JEFF CITY

The League is hosting a trip to the Missouri Capitol on Wednesday, March 11, leaving at 7:30 a.m. and returning by 5 p.m. Call the office for more details or to reserve a seat on the van. Advocacy training will be in the League office from 4 to 6 pm on Monday, March 9.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting Saturday, April 18

The Heights Community Center, Richmond Heights

> Social Time: 1:30 - 2 p.m. Meeting Starts at 2 p.m.



The League's March 21 Trivia Night will have FREE BEER thanks to a donation from the Langlitzes. Trivia Night is a chance for Leaguers to be together for purely social reasons and meet each other's family and friends.

If you are someone who would attend IF you knew someone, please contact me directly and I will make sure that by the time the evening is over you have found new friends. The first time I went I went alone and had a great time with a fun table of future friends.

Tables are filling up, so get your table soon!Seethe flyer on page 5 for more details.*—Nancy Price*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your leadership team is very grateful for the dedicated support of Metro St. Louis League members. Without the work and engagement of so many of our members there is no way the Metro St. Louis League could accomplish all that it does — which is astounding if you take a step back and look at it. It is our pleasure, therefore, to do what we can to keep you well informed and knowledgeable.

This is a very exciting and demanding time. With challenging local, state and national issues pending, it appears that the League's services are needed more now than any other time in recent memory. So, we are strongly committed to maintaining our voter education and support services.

Just to touch on some of the most serious issues and situations let us mention the 2020 Census, attacks on the reforms of Clean Missouri, the need to protect voters' rights from relentless voter suppression tactics, efforts by the state legislature to make it harder for citizens to use initiative petitions to bring forward needed and relevant policies, proposed legislation to allow guns to be carried quite literally "everywhere." Also, in January, the Missouri Supreme Court struck down a portion of the Missouri's voter ID law saying the affidavit that voters without a photo ID were asked to sign was misleading. However, Representative John Simmons has submitted a bill to re-establish the photo ID requirement.

Please watch your email messages for Legislative Bulletins from LWV Missouri that provide updates on the progress of these bills in the Missouri General Assembly. The bulletins also provide links that make contacting your state senator and representative easy. We implore you to let them hear from you!

Yet, there are also promising developments such as legislation proposed in the State Senate to provide early voting in Missouri and no excuse absentee voting. Look for news on these bills in upcoming Legislative Bulletins.



Then, of course, we celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of the National League of Women Voters (February 14, 2020). Local Leagues in Missouri celebrated this occasion in many innovative ways. The Metro St. Louis League delivered cookies to workers at several local election authorities and two newspapers on February 14th to say "Thank you" for voter services. The St. Louis League is also hosting a Suffragist Cinema on March 8th at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters in honor of the founding of the National LWV. A discussion will follow the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*

We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Trivia Night on March 21st. Many other exciting events will be popping up in the next six months having to do with celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment and Women's Suffrage. More details are forthcoming.

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

2020 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: Sherri Pogue, Jean Dugan

IN LEAGUE REPORTER March 2020

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH CO-PRESIDENT WILKERSON



Left to right: Joan Lipkin, Sabrina Tyuse, SLPL board president Nina North-Murphy, Louise Wilkerson and Gena McClendon

UPDATE ON VOTE2020

Sean Nicholson recently reported that the VOTE2020 initiative will not move forward before the 2020 election. Reasons include a high fiscal note and the Secretary of State's deceptive ballot language that delayed signature gathering. He encouraged League members to work this year to build support for a provoter ballot measure.

Since Missourians are not aware of how much easier it is to vote in other states, we should educate the public of the value of modernizing our election structure.

PROP D FOR DEMOCRACY

STL Approves is looking for volunteers to help gather 4,000 more signatures on Prop D at polls in St. Louis City on March 10. The group needs 4,000 more signatures to get this pro-voter initiative on the ballot in August.

The Metro LWV board endorsed Prop D to empower voters and support democracy. It would set up approval voting in a nonpartisan primary with a toptwo runoff for most posts in St. Louis City. This voting system ensures that the winner has broad support and remains accountable to a large number of voters. Winners of eight elections in the last five years won with less than 37 percent of the vote. A recent poll stated that a majority of voters said they would be more likely to turn out to vote in a city election under the Prop D system. On Feb. 22, co-president Louise Wilkerson participated in a panel on the importance of voting at the St. Louis City Central Library for Black History Month. Other panelists were St. Louis City Treasurer Tishaura Jones, Recorder of Deeds Michael Butler; and Gena McClendon, Director of Voter Access initiatives at Washington University's Center for Social Development.

TREATS TO SAY THANKS!

The Metro St. Louis League sent a special Valentine's Day thank you to local election boards and newspapers for all they do for voters. We received about 800 cookies from our generous Leaguers. LWVSTL volunteers delivered cookies to the St. Louis City Board of Elections, St. Louis



County Board of Elections and election authorities in Jefferson , Lincoln, and Franklin counties.

We also gave cookies to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for their

partnership with us on the Voter's Guide and their efforts to inform voters with articles for the region. *The St. Louis American* received cookies for its news articles that bring much needed information to the voters in St. Louis. Newspapers seem to be under

attack these days for investigating and reporting things that citizens want to know so that they can be informed voters.

—Angie Dunlap Cookie Brigade Chair



VOTERS GUIDES

The Voters Guide for the April 7 election will be published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on Thursday, March 26. It will include information on hundreds of candidates and dozens of ballot issues.



Pictured above are volunteers preparing the candidate mailing on Feb. 14. More help is needed to proof and distribute the guide before the April election. Call the office to find out when volunteers are needed.

Tr	rivia Night 2020	
S	aturday, March 21st	
F	irst Congregational Church 10 W. Lockwood Webster Groves, MO 63119	
Doors open at 6:30, trivia starts at 7 pm.		
Event will honor LWVUS Centennial in 2020.		
\$25 per seat, or a table of 10 for \$250. Round sponsorship is \$150. Water, beer and snacks are included. You can bring your own food and drinks.		
Name(s):		
E-mail address:	Phone:	
	Table Sponsor (\$250)	
	Round Sponsorship (\$150)	
	Ticket (\$25 each)	
Others at your table:		

RAINSCAPING AND RAIN GARDENS

Are you squishing through soggy patches in your yard, splashing through persistent puddles on your sidewalk or driveway or regularly refilling eroded channels on your sloped lawn with topsoil? If so, consider rainscaping.

According to the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) website, rainscaping is a combination of landscaping features, such as permeable pavement and the replacement of turf (relatively poor at soaking up rainwater) with perennials, shrubs and trees; water features, such as rain barrels and bioswales (a channel filled with moisture-loving plants that tolerate seasonal fluctuations); and plantings, such as rain gardens and green roofs. The purpose of these approaches is to control the runoff of storm water to allow it time to percolate slowly into the soil near where it falls, rather than transfer the nutrients, pollutants and sediments caught up by the rain from flowing into storm drains and nearby streams and ponds. The Groundwater Foundation reports that the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that pollutants from storm water runoff make up 70% of all water pollution.

While retrofitting your home to incorporate a green roof or replacing your concrete driveway with permeable pavers may not be within your budget or your abilities, installing a rain garden and/or a bioswale might be within both. There are restrictions to the optimum site for a rain garden. They are typically installed on the downside of a slope and should be fed by one or two downspouts from your roof or your lawn and/or driveway. The MBG recommends that you avoid the area under trees or over septic systems or karst sinkholes and to place them 10-20 feet from any foundations or pavement and 5 feet from your property line. And remember to identify the location of utility lines.

In our region 90% of storms are 1.14 inches of rainfall or less. According to the MBG Rainscaping Guide, you should aim to catch the first inch of rainfall from your runoff source with your rain garden and sizing it to about 20% of the area feeding into it will effectively do that. A typical rain garden for a home is 100-300 square feet. You will need to conduct an infiltration test of your soil to determine its suitability and amend it, if necessary. Your rain garden should drain within 48 hours to prevent mosquitos from breeding.

The rain garden itself is a depression that should be banked with a berm on the downhill side. There may be a bioswale directing the runoff to your rain garden and/or excess runoff away from the garden to

exit your property. Refer to the MBG's Rainscaping site for links to lists of plants that will work well in your



garden, regardless of available light. Native plants are recommended because they are already adapted to the local climate and soil and will require less fertilization. As with any garden, you will need to weed and water when necessary until it is wellestablished.

-Karen Brawn, Environmental Quality Committee

Photo of the Successful MSD Rainscaping Small Grants Program from the Missouri Botanical Garden website.

Environmental Tip of the Month: The native plants and shrubs that are recommended for your rain garden and bioswale are also beneficial to our native pollinators, butterflies and birds.

You are invited to a panel forum presented by the Press Club...

"The Fight for Women's Suffrage - Hard Lessons Learned " Friday, March 20, 2020, 12 pm at the Highlands in Forest Park

The fight for Women's Suffrage in the United States was long and arduous. Passage of the 19th Amendment on Aug 26, 1920 was an epic achievement, yet the journey was fraught with racism and divisive politics. What allowed the final victory to occur? Why did women's suffrage groups choose strategies that marginalized black women, telling noted black women leaders to "walk in the back of the parade"? Do we still face these hard choices in our strategies to build coalitions and advance causes in today's political world?

What were the hard lessons leading up to and then following in the 100 years since *passage?* Two panelists and a moderator will share the history of this great achievement along with perspectives that will help us make better strategic choices in today's political arena.

Margot McMillen, author of *"The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History"* will speak on what worked to pass the Nineteenth Amendment and lessons learned from successful





coalitions in Missouri, including the Golden Lane March in 1916.

Louise Wilkerson, LWV of Metro St. Louis Co-President and Past President of the St. Louis

Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 2010-2014. She will recount the history of racism and segregation in the suffrage movement, the rise of black women's groups/ clubs and the many challenges to voters' rights throughout the decades.

Presented by: The St. Louis Press Club.

Co-Sponsored by: LWVMSTL and the American Association of University Women, St. Louis

Keagan's/The Highlands is in Forest Park at: 5163 Clayton Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110.

Cost is \$20- for St. Louis Press Club members and \$25 for non-members.

To register, go to <u>http://stlpressclub.org/2020_03_20_payment.html</u>.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Presentations continue on the 2020 Census, NPV, "Cleaner MO" and Black History Month programs for St. Louis City Library branches. Requests for The History of Women's Voting are popular as March is Women's History Month and this year is the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.

While there will be few issues for the April elections for a specific geographic location, the MSD request to issue sewer revenue bonds will be on ballots across the region.

Information about the updated ID rules for voters is being shared at presentations.

Attendees are being reminded that voters in Missouri's Presidential Primary must request a ballot for a specific political party. You do not have to be a member of that party and no record is kept of which ballot is requested. Some voters say asking which ballot violates their right to a secret ballot.

A training for new speakers was held on February 1st. There were nine attendees, including seven brand new presenters and two current presenters who wanted to learn about the Census presentation. It's good to see so many new members volunteering. — Nancy Price

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The Metro St. Louis League thanks the volunteers helping with 11 candidate forums. Upcoming forums include Ferguson-Florissant School Board on March 19, Affton School Board on March 23, Webster Groves School Board and City Council on March 25, and Kirkwood City Council on March 31.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

While many voters are focused on the presidential race, League volunteers have been busy gathering information on 850 candidates and dozens of issues that will be decided in the April 7 municipal elections. Educating voters is a key part of our mission.

Empowering voters is even more of a challenge, since voter suppression is a real issue in Missouri. As I delve deeper in the work of the suffragists 100 years ago, I'm struck by the many similarities between opposition to suffrage at the turn of the century and current efforts to suppress the vote.

Ellen Carol Dubois pointed out in her book Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote that the women's suffrage movement succeeded but has never ended. "Today's voter suppression is the contemporary manifestation of the opposition to extending the franchise to African Americans and women." As we commemorate the 19th Amendment, LWV is stressing the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all aspects of the League's work. LWVUS Executive Director Virginia Kase said, "As we



honor women's voting rights this year with the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment this August, we must also remember that women of color faced additional barriers and hardships. Not all women won that right to vote in 1920, and today we are still working to protect that right and empower every voter."

There's not enough hours in the day to keep track of the terrible bills moving in the General Assembly. I'm looking forward to the League's Advocacy Day on March 11. Seats are still available if you'd like to share your concerns with legislators in Jefferson City. — Jean Dugan

UPDATE ON VOTING RIGHTS BILLS

HJR109 and HB1600 are both moving in the Missouri House to set up a strict photo ID law. Since the House is likely to approve HB1600 soon, League members should share their concerns about photo ID with their Senators. HJR109 is especially dangerous since it would ask voters to change the Constitution.

On a brighter note, several bills are moving to restore



voting rights for taxpayers on parole or in pre-trial confinement, including SB542, HB1780, HB2363 and HB1594. FastDemocracy.com can be used to track bills on voting or other key topics.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

It is amazing how things can change in the Missouri Legislature. A couple of weeks ago our NPV committee was alerted to the fact that the National Popular Vote Bill was going to be heard in the House Election Committee. Our committee got all prepared with testimony, citizen input, statements, etc.

Two days before the hearing we discovered that the bill was not even assigned to the House committee and, therefore, cannot yet be heard. We reorganized and are prepared to go whenever it makes it on the schedule.

Good news! We have two new talented members on our League committee. We usually meet every other week at my house. For more information call me at 314-434-5116.

—Sydell Shayer, LWVST NPV Committee Chair



METRO LEAGUE RECOGNIZES LWV'S 100 BIRTHDAY

LWVMO and all eight local Leagues in Missouri held special events and activities in February to celebrate the centennial of the national League of Women Voters and show how "Women Power the Vote " in 2020.

The St. Louis League hosts Suffragist Cinema on March 8, showing the movie *Iron Jawed Angels: Lead Follow or Get out of the Way* at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters at 1 p.m. After this movie on the suffragists' struggle to win the vote, there will be a discussion of women's political power in the 100 years since the League of Women Voters was founded.

Besides delivering cookies on Valentines Day, LWV of Metro St. Louis posted a "Historic Hometown Heroine" on Facebook each day that week. The special suffrage honored Victoria Woodhull, Virginia Minor, Edna Gellhorn, Beatrice Grady, Marian English and Marie Byrum.

More than 320 state and local Leagues marked the League's centennial with activities and events in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Hong Kong.

Tributes and Memorials

Longtime League member Carol Teig passed away on Jan. 31 following a short battle with Multiple Myeloma. The family asked that donations in her memory be sent to Washington University or the League of Women Voters.

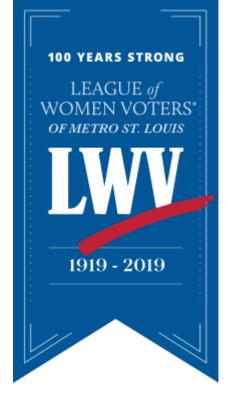
Another former member, Georgia Archibald, passed away in February. That family is also asking for memorial donations to LWV of Metro St. Louis.

DO YOU LOVE THE LEAGUE?

Would you be willing to share your excitement about the League with new members? Over the last few years the LWVSTL has seen a big increase in new members... so many that it is hard to help them all get "plugged in" at the League.

Although enthusiasm is the mark of many people who are new, in most cases, a personal invitation to events and meetings gets new Leaguers connected. Many want to do things with the League but often new members do not realize the broad areas of study and action that the St. Louis Metro League does and how they can just jump right in.

To help with this outreach to new members, we are trying to form a Membership Committee. Reaching out to new members, inviting them to all the opportunities in the League, and answering their questions is the main work. From new members, I receive encouragement that the League's mission is so needed today. New members' energy keeps our League vital.



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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Remember to put out your VOTE TUESDAY signs for the March 10th presidential primary. Then be ready to put them in your yard again for the April 7th municipal elections. Every election matters! Every Vote matters!





Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty watch as Karen McClure registers a friend of theirs at a recent naturalization ceremony in the Eagleton courthouse..

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Thanks to the many volunteers who contributed time to the League in the past month! Thanks this month to Sue Allen, Marie Andel, Mary Archer, Mary Baker, Julie Behrens, Renee Bengage, Deborah Bloom, Michele Bowman, Mary Brown, Robert Brown, Sharon Brown, Sharon Campione, Jan Castanis, Susan Cejka, Marsha Clark, Karen Cloyd, Lisa Collier, Marj Courtney, Cheri Crockett, Mickey Croyle, Don Crozier, Gail Crozier, Katie Dionne, Angie Dunlap, Terry Dunlap, Christine Eason, Janet Edwards, Barb Ehnes, Iris Elliott, Kathleen Farrell, Cheryl Fellner, Linda Fiehler, Dorothy Fox, Karen Frahm, Diane Friedman, Carol Frolichstein, Catherine Fueglein, Julie Gaebe, Gloria Garidel, Eileen Gmerek, Paul Gmerek, Eve Golden, Beverly Guterman, Linda Hanson, Denise Harrington, Barbara Harris, Sheila Hayes, Mary Hellwig, Debby Howard, Joan Hubbard, Pam Hughes, Juanita Jahn, Don Jeffries, Kathy Kane, Mary Karr, Diane Kasten, Margaret Katranides, Kayla Kremer, Katie LaGrand, Meredith Langlitz, Mary Leopold, Dorothy Lockard, Jennifer Lohman, Karen McClure, Linda McDaniel, Susan McDonald, Cindy Menkhus, Kathy Meret, Nancy Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Cindy Mitchell, Carol Moakley, Katie Molitor, Gretchen Moser, Erin Northcutt, Jitka Olander, Sharon Poe, Sherri Pogue, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Kathy Quinn, Libby Reimers, Peggy Robb, Melody Roebuck, Ann Ross, Lorraine Ross, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Anne Sappington, Cathy Satkowski, Yvonne Schlote, Janet Schott, Hannah Shayer, Sydell Shayer, Jessica Shepherd, Judith Smart, Steve Smith, Neva Sprung, Laura Staley, Catherine Stenger, Carol Strawbridge, Penney Thomas, Brenda Tremain, Ann Tucker, Susan Turk, Laurie Velasquez, Bill Vogel, Sharon Wells, K Wentzien, Karen Wetmore, Renee Wickersham, Sue Williams, Louise Wilkerson and Cindy Wunderlich.

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.

UNIT MEETINGS

Meeting Topic: Unit Choice

Chesterfield/Creve Coeur: Thursday, March 12, 9:30 am. Sydell Shayer's home, 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Eve Golden, 314-469-9985, j.golden@sbcglobal.net.

North County: Wednesday, March 11, 6 pm, Rock Road Branch Library, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd., St. Ann. Contact Louise Wilkerson at 314-458-8346 or louisew@sbcglobal.net.

St. Louis City: Saturday, March 14, 10:30 am. Trinity Episcopal Church, Euclid & Washington. Contact Kathleen Farrell at 314-773-2876 or kfarrell0332@gmail.com .

St. Charles: Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 pm, St. Charles Justice Center, 1781 Zumbehl Rd. Contact Jennifer Rushing at jrush1120@live.com or Don Crozier at 636-293-6864 or doncrozier@gmail.com.

South County: We will not have a unit meeting in March .

University City/Clayton Unit: Inactive for the time being. Members are encouraged to attend other units.

Webster/Kirkwood: Wednesday, March 11, 9:30 a.m. First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 West Lockwood. Contact K Wentzien , 314-961-0894 (home), 314-805-6950 (cell), <u>suitsme@prodigy.net</u>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Unless noted,* all meetings below will be held at the League office in Brentwood at 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104

Centennial: March 5, 4 p.m. Contact: Nancy Miller, 314-961-6869 or nismill@yahoo.com

City-County Governance Study Group: March 16, 6 pm. Contact: Debby Howard, 314-434-3073 or <u>jack-howe@swbell.net</u>

Early Voting: TBD. Contact Joan Hubbard, 314-753-0689 or joanhubbard@prodigy.net

Education: Saturday, March 28, 10 am. Contact Susan Turk, 314-771-0946 or susangturk@yahoo.com

Environmental Quality: April 4, 1 pm. Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314-395-7876 or <u>erwin-croyle@charter.net</u>

Health Care: March 17, 5:30 pm. Contact: Irma Ruebling, 314-330-9063 or irma.ruebling@slu.edu

National Popular Vote: March 30, 1:30 pm. Meet at 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Sydell Shayer, 314-434-5116 or <u>slshayer@gmail.com</u>

Observer Corps: March 11, 4 pm. Contact Sue Williams at 314-521-8415 or sjwillia43@att.net.

Policing Study Group: March 6, 3 pm. Contact: Mary Leopold, 314-991-5958 or <u>mary.</u> <u>muldoon.leopold@gmail.com</u>





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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METRO ST. LOUIS 8706 MANCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 104 ST. LOUIS MO 63144-2733

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2020 UPCOMING EVENTS		
March 8	Suffragist Cinema, 1 pm at St. Louis County Library Headquarters	
March 20	AAUW Press Club Panel on the Fight for Women's Suffrage—Hard Lessons Learned. 12 pm at Keagan's Restaurant in Forest Park.	
March 21	Trivia Night, 6:30 pm. 1st Congregational Church in Webster Groves	
March 15	The Young(ish) Friends of the League March 15 at 7pm at St Louis County Library Mid-County Branch (Clayton).	
April 18	Annual Meeting, The Heights, 8001 Dale Ave, Richmond Heights	
April 22	50th Anniversary of Earth Day Celebration Rally in Jefferson City. 7:30 am-4:00 pm	
May 3	Reception and tour of Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage exhibit, 5 pm, Missouri History Museum, followed by reception for Hundred Club members.	
June 4	Presentation on Bonded Justice, Race, Class, Gender and Suffrage by Dr. April Langley at the St. Louis City Library's Carnegie Room.	
June 25-28	LWVUS National Convention, Washington, D.C.	
August 26	Women's Equality Day, 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment	