



# Missouri Voter

Volume 78, Issue 1

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

January/February 2017

## **LWVMO 63rd STATE CONVENTION**

April 28-29, 2017

Springfield, MO

### ***Second Call to Convention***

The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri invites you to the 63rd LWV State Convention which will be held this year in Springfield, MO on April 28 and 29, 2017. The timing of the Convention will be a little bit different this year but both days will be full ones with reports, discussions, votes and ideas flowing!

#### ***Friday, April 28***

The Conference will start on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m., followed by an early evening reception at *Missouri State University's Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center* located in downtown Springfield and within walking distance of lots of great local eating and drinking establishments.

#### ***Saturday, April 29***

Saturday's meeting will be held at *Drury University's Trustee Science Center*. This day will begin at 9:00 a.m., will include lunch, and will run until 3:00 p.m.

#### ***Guest Speaker—Crystal Quade***

We are really excited about our special guest and speaker, Crystal Quade. Crystal is a newly elected member of the Missouri House of Representatives who has been named Vice President of the Freshman Class of the House. Crystal attended a Women Leadership Training held several years ago by our League.

#### ***Silent Auction—Time for the local Leagues to Step up!***

The silent auction will be a bit different this year. We are asking each of the eight Missouri Leagues to put together a basket or box of goodies that represent their area and their local businesses.

#### ***Hotel Accommodations***

The Holiday Inn Express on 1117 St. Louis St. in Springfield will have rooms reserved at a conference rate, first come first served. They have standard king or double rooms. A free breakfast is included. You will get more reservation details soon.

We hope you will join us to help Missouri move forward, to meet new people and share ideas. Oh, yes, and for food and fun conversations.

Watch for a special mailing with additional details. Be sure to mark your calendar!

## President's Message



Dear LWV Members,

Welcome to 2017!

2017 is proving to be both exciting and interesting. There is a change in the party governing and along with it, a change in philosophy and new ideas on both the state and national level. But 2017 has also brought division. There were marches for women's issues across the US and the world.

On the other hand, that's democracy: often messy and with the freedom of all citizens to vote and voice their opinions. And as we like to point out in history, politics is like a clock: the pendulum swings left and right. We don't know what the future will bring or exactly how it will look, but it does appear that the United States will be evaluating its place among nations and working to find what will benefit its citizens.

For League, it means getting clear, honest information out to all citizens on important state and local issues. Getting all citizens registered and able to vote. It means organizing and having discussions on current issues with legislators, local officials and just plain people at public places. It means involving new members in the basic activity of democracy.

People are now calling in to the main League office wanting to know where the closest League is or how they can join the state and become active. What it means to League is that more people have looked at League as a non-partisan, educational, trusted organization. That means for us: continuing to get every citizen registered to vote; putting out accurate, non-biased materials for elections; participating in an active way in your town and county; contacting and having town meetings for our local reps and senators.

League has always been honest in its dealings and clear in its principles of promoting participation in democracy for everyone.

In the words of two former presidents:

*Citizenship duty : we are bound by ideals that teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these ideals. Every citizen must uphold them.... I ask you to be citizens. Citizens, not spectators. Citizens, not subjects. Responsible citizens building communities of service and a nation of character.* (George W. Bush)

*Liberty in Democracy: Of course there are dangers in religious freedom and freedom of opinion. But to deny these rights is worse than dangerous, it is absolutely fatal to liberty.* (Harry S Truman)

—Elaine Blodgett, president

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In keeping with the By Laws of the League of Women Voters of Missouri, this report of the Nominations Committee is being sent to local LWVs prior to State Convention in late April.

### **Nomination Slate 2017-2019**

League of Women Voters of Missouri - State Board

#### **Officers:**

President Kathleen Boswell ( Sedalia )  
Vice President Marilyn McLeod ( Columbia )  
Secretary Louise Wilkerson ( St. Louis )  
Treasurer Becky Clausen ( St. Louis )

#### **Directors :**

Marge Bramer ( Springfield )  
Nancy Copenhaver ( Moberly )  
Debby Howard ( St. Louis )  
Evelyn Maddox ( KC )  
Carol Schreiber ( Columbia )  
Linda Smith ( KC )  
Sharon Swon ( Mexico )

Nominating Committee 2017- 2019

Peggy Placier, Chair ( Columbia )  
Pauline Testerman ( KC )  
Elaine Blodgett ( Columbia )  
Two others will be appointed at a later date by the new State Board.

Election will be held at State Convention in Springfield, April 28th and April 29th.

Report submitted by the Nominations Committee:

Sue Brockett, Nancy Copenhaver, Lois Detrick, Janie Riley and Lael Von Holt, Chair

#### Statement from Chris Carson, president, LWVUS:

The League is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The LWV supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations

## Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award

1. The Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award is based on the League of Women Voters principles or positions at the national, state or local levels.
2. The activity to be nominated must be initiated and completed at the local level.
3. In order to be eligible for the bi-annual award, the activity must be completed within two years of receiving the award.
4. The award will be given at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention.
5. The winner will be determined by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Missouri or a committee named by the President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri and approved by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Missouri.
6. The award may be for either an action project or an education project.
7. The award may be given to an individual member of the League of Women Voters or to a League of Women Voters chapter.

### Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee (League or Individual): \_\_\_\_\_

If nominee is an individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local League: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of person submitting nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet of paper:

1. Give the League principle or position on which the project was based.
2. Give the time frame for the project. For the 2017 award, the project had to take place from May 2015 (the last LWVMO Convention) and be completed by April 2017.
3. Describe the project and the number of people involved in the project.
4. State the outcome of the project and its effects on the community.
5. Identify which resources were used.
6. Attach: samples of publications, brochures, video tapes, news clippings and information about other publicity, etc.

***Nominations must be received by close of business March 15, 2017***

Mail to:            Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award  
                          League of Women Voters of Missouri  
                          8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104  
                          St. Louis, MO 63144

### The Harriett Woods Award For Exemplary Community Service

1. The Harriett Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service, hereafter known as the Award, is presented bi-annually at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention.
2. The recipient of the award will be an individual.
3. The recipient of the award will be a member of the League of Women Voters of Missouri at the time the Award was earned and received.
4. Anyone may submit a nomination.
5. Nominations must be in writing and submitted as announced on the nomination form.
6. The final decision of the recipient will be made by a committee appointed by the President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri.
7. The service or activity does not have to be a League of Women Voters' project, but must be compatible with League of Women Voters' mission and not in conflict with League of Women Voters' program positions.
8. The Criteria for the award will include, but will not be limited to:
  - a. An individual who goes beyond the normal scope of service;
  - b. A service or activity that affects a large number of individuals;
  - c. A service or activity that enhances a community (not necessarily a city).

### Harriett Woods Award - for Exemplary Community Service Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's League: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of individual submitting the nomination:  
\_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet of paper:

1. Describe the nominee's project/service/activity (hereafter referred to as Project).
2. State why this Project was needed.
3. State who benefitted and approximately how many people benefitted.
4. State, if any, the Project's long range effects on the community.

Please attach documentation, photographs, copies of awards, copies of commendations, etc.

***Nominations must be received by close of business, March 15, 2017***

Mail to: Harriett Woods Award Nomination  
League of Women Voters of Missouri  
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104  
St. Louis, MO 63144

## Local League News

### *LWV of Southwest Missouri*

“We’re gonna need a bigger boat!” To borrow the famous phrase from the movie *Jaws*, that’s what we’ve experienced for our last couple of league events! It all started out with 16 new women who showed up at our unit meetings the week after the election! Then, we had 50 in attendance for our Holiday Party and 23 in attendance for our New Member Orientation, both of which are more than double our usual turnout! We were squeezed into every cranny in the rooms, but what a great problem to have! And finally, we had 10 new members approach us in the week after the Women’s March and 4 more this past weekend at our Rally. We just submitted our roster to the National Office and topped out at 111 members, which is about 30 members above last year! We are thrilled, to say the least!

To seize on all this enthusiasm and energy, we hosted our **Take Action Rally** on January 28. We were thrilled when 63 members showed up early on Saturday to spend their morning discussing ways the League can take action on issues important to us, both locally and on the state level. There were 8 different tables for members to choose from: Money in Politics, Photo Voter ID, Voter Outreach, Legislative Action, Zone 1 and Poverty, Mental Health, Publicity and Community Relations, and Environmental Sustainability.

Members brainstormed ideas for action and advocacy, how best to engage, and how to position the League on all of these issues. The room was buzzing all morning and someone even asked if there was a way to “harness the energy”! Each table formed a committee and set a date for their first planning meeting. We left there with 63 members plugged in to a committee and ready for ACTION this year....doing what the League does best!

—Leslie Carrier and Kelli Wood, co-presidents

### **Welcome to Interim Executive Director—Jan Scheurer**

Hello! My name is Jan Scheurer, and, for the next several weeks, I will be acting as the Interim Director of the Joint Office. Although I will be assuming some of the duties that Anna Mennerick has so ably covered for the past eight (8) years, I, in no way, will be able to fill those shoes. From the time of Anna’s departure through April 1, I will be assisting and providing support for the following projects: database management; the Voters Guide; League materials, events and projects; and other communications.

I am a Social Worker, and have worked in the areas of child welfare, advocacy, performance management and evaluation. I have worked in family court system and a not-for-profit social service agency. Throughout my career, I have looked to the League for leadership in civic matters. In awe of the passion and interest that I see in the League membership, I look forward to working with you in these coming weeks!

—Jan Scheurer

### Fond Farewell to Anna Mennerick:



**We wish you great success  
in your new endeavor!**

It is with enormous gratitude and respect for all of you that I am sharing the news of my resignation. I have accepted a position with Carnahan High School (SLPS) that will provide me and my family with much needed benefits in addition to some classroom/student support opportunities that are the next step towards my goal of becoming a certified high school teacher.

My last official day was Friday, January 27th. I am happy to let you know that Jan Scheurer has agreed to work as the acting Joint Office Director while the goals and criteria for your next Executive Director are developed. As I reflect on the eight years I have spent working along side many of you, I am overwhelmed. There have been so many ideas explored, citizens educated, voters registered and informed with shared laughter and purpose. I look forward to continuing the friendships that have been a wonderful product of our work together in the League. —Anna Mennerick



### CALENDAR

**2017**

- LWVMO Board—  
March 17—  
Columbia
- LWVMO Board  
April 28—  
Springfield
- LWVMO  
Convention—  
April 28-29—  
Springfield

#### Officers

**President:** Elaine Blodgett  
**Vice President:** Mary Merritt  
**Secretary:** Peg Prendergast  
**Treasurer:** Debby Waite Howard

#### Directors

**Kathleen Boswell:** Public Relations  
**Nancy Copenhaver:** Tax Policy  
**Dianne Modrell:** Health  
**Kathleen Farrell:** Voter Service  
**Linda McDaniel:** Elections  
**Marty Ott:** Legislative Action  
**Marilyn McLeod:** Missouri Voter  
**Janie Riley:** Membership Development

#### Nominating Committee

**Lael Von Holt,** Chair  
**Lois Detrick**  
**Sue Brockett**

#### LWVUS Board Liaison:

**Karen Nicholson**

**LWVUS MLD Coach:**  
**Donna Lauffer**

**Webmaster:**  
**Marilyn McLeod**

**Interim Joint Office Executive Director:**  
**Jan Scheurer**



**MISSOURI VOTER**  
League of Women Voters of Missouri  
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**Donations enable us to do our work for Missouri and Missouri League.**

**Please consider a gift to LWVMO today.**

***To be tax-deductible make your check payable to LWV MO Education Fund. For non tax-deductible donations, make your check payable to LWV MO.***

***Thank you!***

—Mail to: LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

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Voice: 314-961-6869

Email: [league@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:league@lwvmissouri.org)