



Missouri Voter

Volume 77, Issue 4

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

July/August 2016



Join us in St. Louis for *Celebrate the Vote!*
September 3, 2016

Central Library, Kauffman and Poelker Parks

We will be reenacting the 1916 parade with gold sashes and historic displays of women's suffrage participants and activities.

The St. Louis Public Library, Missouri History Museum, City of St. Louis, and other institutions and organizations join the St. Louis League in organizing this event.

Speakers, music, displays, informational booths, and reenactments will be open to all on Saturday, September 3, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

So, make your reservation and join us in St. Louis to

Celebrate the Vote!

For more information, go to:

http://www.lwvstl.org/ctv_festival.html

CALENDAR 2016

- “Celebrate the Vote” - Sept. 3 - St. Louis
- LWVMO Board—
September 9-
Columbia
- LWVMO Board—
November 11—
Sedalia
- November 12-
Fall Conference
-Sedalia

2017

- LWVMO Board
-January 14
Columbia
(snow date Jan 21)
- LWVMO Board
- March 11
Columbia
- April or May
(TBD)
State Conven-
tion -Kansas City

President's Message



Dear LWV Members,

As members of League we are now in the middle of our work for 2016--encouraging, helping and educating people to get registered to vote; letting the public know what the candidates in their area are thinking and what they are 'debating' with each other about; and making sure that voters clearly understand the issues on the ballot. There are various web sites available: The Secretary of State in Missouri has an easy to use basic voter information site and several counties also have good sites. The website *Ballotpedia.com* has good information about registration and ballot information, as well as League sites. Libraries and other local businesses are good places to ask to leave voter registration information.

Problems still remain, and they are the same as they always have been: getting to people to actually register, then, encouraging them to vote, and helping with rides to the polls. In Columbia on election day in August, busses ran free so that people could get to the polls. Next is keeping ballot information simple and easy to read and making sure in our handouts that the information is clear and understandable. (Don't forget the old rule: write to the eighth grade reading level.)

Our aim is to put good, clear, understandable information in the front of citizens. We also aim at putting together candidates and issues meetings where good, clear questions are given to candidates with the expectation that they will be able to answer them. League has always looked at candidates as having equal opportunities to explain issues and get their points across clearly.

We know from just listening to the news and reading the newspapers that people are frustrated and have fears--real or not--about the future. They want change, but exactly what kind? Are they fears about their own community, or state or the United States and the world beyond? As we work this fall, let's not only work to register voters, but to listen to them and begin to think about what their needs are and if there is any way the League can work on a better understanding of public issues. We are working on a "Missouri Voters Guide" for the November election, with information about statewide candidates and ballot issues.

We have Leagues communicating with each other, sharing information and working within the larger state group to defeat Voter Photo ID. Keep up the information sharing and let Missouri know that the League of Women Voters is there for them.

—Elaine Blodgett



COURTS OVERTURN VOTER I.D. LAWS IN 4 STATES:

LET'S MAKE MISSOURI NEXT!

Federal courts have overturned voter identification laws in Texas, Wisconsin, North Carolina and North Dakota in the last month. In the North Carolina case, the opinion stated explicitly that legislators “target African-Americans with almost surgical precision” focusing on the racism behind Voter I.D. laws.

This is good news for us in Missouri as we work to educate the public to defeat Amendment 6, which allows the Missouri legislature to put in place a Photo Voter I.D. requirement that will not only disenfranchise over 220,000 Missouri citizens, but discourage others confused by the law from voting.

League members across the state went to the polls on the August 2nd primary to greet exiting voters and provide information about Amendment 6 that will be on the November 8th Missouri ballot. Working with the Protect the Vote Coalition, League members talked to over 1,000 voters. Next steps for the campaign against Amendment 6? Phone banks will be established in the Kansas City, St. Louis, and central Missouri areas. Be ready to answer the call to talk to your fellow citizens when your League begins this very important work.

Part of our work against Amendment 6 is being done with the Protect the Vote Coalition. We have joined with civil rights and non-profit groups across the state to defeat this restrictive legislation. The League will also be working on its own – producing 30 second radio ads that will be played in markets across the state. We will also be writing letters to the editor, speaking to community groups, and volunteering to do media interviews on Photo Voter I.D.

We are working to develop “the message” as we analyze poll results we received in July. Look for toolkit packages sent to each local league close to September 1st. In the meantime, answer the call to work on phone bank calling in your area when your League leaders put out the call.

Nothing is more important than protecting our right to vote!

—Kathleen Farrell & Linda McDaniel, Voter Service



Local League News



LWV of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties (LWVKC/J/C/P)

The LWVKC/J/C/P is actively engaged in planning, along with others, events for Women's Equality Week. This year we are working with established and new partners. The established partners are the LWV of Johnson County, Kansas while new partners are the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Women of the NAACP Kansas City, El Centro, Inc, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

We have had a catalytic and co-sponsorship responsibility for the following two events:

On August 22 -

“Women's Equality and Race: Bridging the Gap to Sisterhood”

Bruce Watkins Center, 3700 Blue Parkway, KCMO 64130

Sponsors: LWVKC,J/C/P; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Mu Omega Chapter; Women of the NAACP Kansas City; El Centro, Inc.

Moderator: Barbara A. Washington, ESQ., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Panelists: Jackie Loya-Torres, Community Development Officer, Commerce Bank; Kiki Curls, MO State Senator, District 9, Minority Caucus Chairwoman; Shanna Steitz, Senior Minister, Community Christian Church.

On August 24 –

“Voter Suppression: Kansas and Missouri at the Epicenter”

Asbury United Methodist Church, 5400 W. 75th Street, Prairie Village, KS 66208

Moderator: Mary Sanchez, Journalist and columnist

Speakers: Micah Kubic, ACLU Kansas, Judy Morgan, Representative, Missouri General Assembly

Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Johnson County, KIS; LWVKC,J/C/P Counties MO; Mainstream Coalition; Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta; Women for Kansas

—Linda Smith

(More Local League News on page 6)



Members of the Missouri delegation who attended the 2016 LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C. in June.

Left to right:

Diane Suhler, Julian Long, Kathleen Farrell, Peggy Placier, Elaine Blodgett, Linda McDaniel, Peg Predergast (lower) Kelly Wood (lower), Mary Merritt, Kathleen Boswell, Becky Clausen, Lexi White, Nancy Miller.

A Little History of the "Walkless Talkless Parade" of 1916

In 1916, over 3000 suffragists converged on Saint Louis, MO in the sweltering heat during the Democratic National convention poised to re-nominate Woodrow Wilson as President. Their sole demand was a plank in the party platform in support of women's suffrage. Wearing white dresses and golden sashes that said "Votes For Women", they lined the street where the delegates would walk from their hotel to the convention center.

The impact of these women, who formed a 'walkless talkless parade', sometimes called "The Golden Lane" was enormous. They accomplished their objective and got the plank on the platform.

Local League News (continued)

St. Louis Metro LWV

IT HAS BEEN A HOPPING HOT SUMMER IN ST. LOUIS!

It USED to be that summer was a quiet time for the League. We could get caught up in the office, clean up the files, and give our volunteers some time off. Not this summer. With the wonderful help of our two interns, Rosie Drinkhouse and Corrine Kwapis, we produced a Voters Guide for the August 2nd primary with over 300 candidates and 50 ballot issues, registered voters in 20+ events, put on 5 candidate forums, and spent countless hours planning the September 3rd *Celebrate the Vote* festival.

The August primary featured highly contested races for several state legislative races and St. Louis City's Circuit Attorney and Sheriff. And of course there were those statewide contests. We had more voter calls to the office for assistance than we can remember for a recent primary.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis for *Celebrate the Vote* on September 3rd! Register now on our website to secure your "Votes for Women" sash.

—Kathleen Farrell

LWV of Southwest Missouri

We have 5 action teams lined up to work on plans and events leading up to the November election: Voter Registration, Voters' Guide, Candidate & Issue Forums, Media/Publicity, and Get Out The Vote. Each of these teams are in the process of developing their plan of action and how best to maximize efforts in our community. We hope to focus these efforts in conjunction with other groups and non-profit organizations in the *Zone 1 Blitz*. This is an effort organized by the City of Springfield to improve all services, including low voter turnout, in an underserved part of the city.

Just like every other League across the state, we are busy working on our Voters' Guide and collecting information from our local candidates for Vote411.org. Our goal is to get 100% participation, even from candidates who have no opposition, as that has been an issue in the past where unopposed candidates have not always felt it was necessary to submit their information.

One of our favorite things to do each year is to participate in the Naturalization Ceremony by registering the new citizens! What an emotional day and a heartwarming experience for our members who help out at this event. We will host a voter registration table at the August 25th ceremony at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

—Leslie Carrier and Kelly Wood
Co-Presidents

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Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

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Anna Mennerick

**2017 LWVMO Calendars—Now Available**

The price remains the same as last year. Place order with office – can be picked up at Fall Conference to save shipping charges. Missouri local leagues – \$4 each plus shipping. To all others – 1-9 \$5 each, 10-99 \$4.50 ea, 100+ \$4 ea all plus shipping. 0

Order now and have them available at the Fall Conference in Sedalia and save shipping

For more **great** LWV logo items—pens, pins, banners, table covers! —go to our website:

<https://lwvmissouri.org/shop-2/>

LWV - Contributions Recently Received**LWVMO**

\$10.00 from LWV Metro St. Louis for Peggy Piggy.

LWVMO ED FUND

\$250.00 Member pledge - paid
 \$50.00 Member contribution

—*Contributions are always greatly appreciated.*

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

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

Thank you!

Missouri LWV

<http://lwvmissouri.org>

LWV US

<http://lwv.org>

Missouri Secretary of State

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections>



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**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
at St. Louis, Mo**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Call to Fall Conference in Sedalia!

The annual fall conference for LWVMO will be held in *Sedalia on Saturday, Nov. 12* at State Fair Community College. Information on registration fees, starting time and other details will be announced later. *Please let us know your interests for topics/guest speakers.* Of course, the election results may be the main topic of discussion. This is the perfect opportunity to bring new members to get them introduced to other Leaguers and to get more background on what we do. There is always lively discussion! Hope to see you there.

—Kathleen Boswell
boswell@iland.net

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