



Missouri Voter

Volume 77, Issue 2

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

March/April 2016

President's Message



Dear LWV members,

Keep Calm and Carry On!

From a League member on *Facebook*:

"I know this may make some people upset with me but I am concerned about both conservatives AND liberals this presidential primary season because it is all about being against someone or something. I don't want to paint every group with the same "evil" brush...Immigrants, Wall Street, Muslims, rich people, etc. etc. I am a believer in being FOR something and working together to achieve it. I wonder if that is even possible any more."

This comment offers us the insight of many in our country--fear. But voters have to keep their eyes on the target by looking at the real needs of our community, our state and nation in this major election year. What I hope is that there will be good honest dialogues going on in our country and local areas.

It's time for us as League members to get into the political discussion in our communities and move in the direction of working on what those real issues are. We also must reach a certain reality about the issues at hand and agree to reasonable solutions. While it is true that we could be attacked at an airport by radicals, most of this won't happen.

(continued on page 2)

CALENDAR 2016

- April 12—Equity Action Day—State Capitol Building—Jefferson City
- April 29-30—LWVMO Board Meeting and Spring Conference
- May 1, 2016 - Legislature adjourns
- May 20 (tentative) LWVMO Board Planning Meeting
- June 16-19 LWVUS Convention—Washington, DC

Legislative Information

Information on legislation can be found on the Missouri General Assembly website:

<http://www.moga.mo.gov/>

First Day Filing for 2016 Legislative Races



The first day filing for state representative, state senator in odd-numbered districts, state executive offices except state auditor, was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

As in past years, the LWVMO hosted a welcome table for first day filers at the Secretary of State office building from 8 a.m. to noon.

Members at the welcome table included Mary Merritt (Sedalia), Lael Von Holt and Elaine Blodgett (Columbia), Laura Worstell, Sharon Swon, and Robin Brookins (Mexico).

President’s Message (continued from page 1)

While crime seems rampant, having a gun handy may be unnecessary or we won't be in the right place at the right time to use it. There are factories closing and moving overseas, but we aren't in the Great Depression and illegal immigrants haven't overrun the country, and for many people, these economic times are tough.

The best thing any of us can do is to be informed, speak with others, provide those good League candidate and ballot issue forums and urge people to register, become informed and vote.

—Elaine Mitchell Blodgett

LWV Contributions Recently Received

FOR LWV MO: 2 contributions for \$150.00; 1 contribution from board meeting \$5.00.

LWV MO Education Fund: 1 contribution for \$75.00.

LWV MO Education Fund:

Contributions from Leigh Huesgen & Barbara Geen designated for Columbia-Boone County. A contribution from Dixie Brown designated for Kansas City/JCP Counties.



**League of Women Voters of Missouri
Spring Conference
Saturday, April 30, 2016
9:00 a.m. (registration) to 3:00 p.m.
Boone Electric Cooperative
1413 Rangeline Street
Columbia**

Join us as we meet our old and new friends in League in Columbia our Spring Conference. Sessions will include:

- ◆ Guest speaker on health research in an unexpected way
- ◆ Guest speaker on the state of politics today
- ◆ Voter Photo ID —a very practical workshop
- ◆ Preparing for the November election
- ◆ Peggy Piggy — How “fat” did she get (with \$\$\$, that is)
- ◆ Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award
- ◆ Great new items to check out on our wares table!

The registration fee, which includes breaks, lunch and information packet is \$25 (if registered by April 15; after that date, the fee is \$30).

Hotel Accommodations—Columbia

If you want to come to Columbia on Friday, there is a block of rooms being held **until April 15** at the Howard Johnson’s, 3100 I-70 Drive SE, Columbia, MO 65201, Phone: (573) 474-6161. The cost is \$99 plus tax, single or double. Be sure to mention the League of Women Voters to get this special rate.

***LWVMO Spring Conference Registration Form
April 30, 2016 - - Columbia, Missouri***

Local League _____

Name(s) of Person(s) attending:

Registration fee is \$25 per person until April 15. After that date, the fee is \$30.

Amount enclosed: _____

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

Local League News

LWV of Metro St. Louis



We Work Hard and We Play Hard in St. Louis

What do 600 local races, over 150 ballot issues and 350 volunteer hours add up to? The biggest Voters Guide we have ever produced! The *Post-Dispatch* will include the Guide in over 230,000 newspapers March 25th and the League office is piled high with 9,400 extra Guides to distribute to over 140 locations across six counties and the City of St. Louis. Whew! Now onto the August and November issues.

The same week that we finished the first draft of the guide we stopped for a moment and had a wonderful time at our March 12th Trivia Night. The tables were filled with Trivia players, paper airplanes were raced, much popcorn was consumed and a good time was had by all. We also raised much needed revenue for the 2016 election year projects.

Our spring forums have been lively and averaging over 100 in attendance. We held our first “double header” on March 22nd for the Webster Groves School Board and City Council live broadcast by community radio station KWRH-LP 92.9 FM Radio. We look forward to seeing all of you in Columbia on April 30th.

—Kathleen Farrell, St. Louis

(Local League News continues on page 6)



EQUITY ACTION DAY
Tuesday, April 12, 2016—State Capitol Building—Jefferson City
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Legislative Briefing—House Hearing Room 2
8:30 a.m.—continental breakfast for participants
8:45-10:45 a.m.—Legislative briefing

Citizen Lobbying
11:00 a.m.-noon—Visit your state senator and representative
Noon—lunch in House Hearing Room 2 or at the Capitol
1:00-3:00 p.m. Visit your state senator and representative

Reservations:
Call Pat Shores at 636-448-4387 or Karen Francis at 314-223-4235 with your name, postal address and email address. An optional Panera box lunch will be available to purchase.

Local League News (continued from page 4)

LWV of SW Missouri

Our League will be hosting a School Board candidate forum on March 29 for those running in the April 5 election. We know we have become THE recognized forum group in town when the candidates actually call us asking if we will be hosting a forum!

The Ozarks Mental Health Network grew out of a 2013-2015 study conducted by the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri and the League continues to shepherd the Network. Network members have planned an outstanding learning event on April 21st and 22nd with two speakers coming to Springfield from a landmark mental health program in Tulsa. Speakers Mike Brose and Greg Shinn are experts in collaborative mental health care and will have much to share that will help us work together. Mental health care has repeatedly been identified as a community red flag in Springfield. We hope to learn from the successes of the Tulsa model as we work to improve access to mental health services and lower the associated community costs.

—Leslie Carrier

Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award

The Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award is given to an individual or group that has done outstanding work in the field of health care. The nominee does not have to be a member of the League of Women Voters. The service or activity does not have to be a League project, but it must be compatible with LWV ideals and not in conflict in any way with our program positions. Each local League may submit one nominee.

Criteria:

1. The number of people served or impacted.
2. The project was health care service that impacted the community or world.
3. The number of people involved in carrying out the activity.
4. The project should have taken place in the last two (2) years.
5. Special consideration will be given to other groups that were networked during

the project.

Nomination information required includes description, time frame, and outcome of the project; number of people involved; and resources and other groups used to carry out the project. The winner will be selected by a committee appointed by the LWVMO President. Nominations are due April 10, 2016, and nominees must be able to attend the presentation. The award, given each two (2) years, will be announced and presented at LWVMO Spring Conference – 2016.

Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award 2016 Nomination Form

Name of League making the nomination: _____

Time frame of the project: _____

Number of people involved: _____

Description of the project: _____

(If more space is needed, attach separate sheet.)

Outcome of project: _____

Resources and other groups used to carry out the project: _____

Attach newspaper clipping or other sample of publicity received for the project as supporting material.

Nominations must be received in the LWVMO office by April 10, 2016. (Deadline extended)

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

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org or Peg Prendergast at: shapeshome@yahoo.com

Officers

President: Elaine Blodgett
Vice President: Mary Merritt
Secretary: Peg Prendergast
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Dianne Modrell: Health

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Linda McDaniel: Elections

Marty Ott: Legislative Action

Marilyn McLeod: MO Voter

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Nominating Committee

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Lois Detrick
Sue Brockett

LWVUS Board Liaison:

Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

Webmaster: Rachel Brekhus

Joint Office Executive Director:
Anna Mennerick



Hello Again, League Members:

Soon it will be April 30 and time to bring your “piggy bank” money to Spring Conference.

As I told you last time, originally we thought to bring all the banks to Conference, but have since realized that that would not be a practical thing to do. So, each League should count their money, and bring only the half for LWVMO to Conference.

My friend Mary got confused (not the first time, even though she might like you to think so) and had her members bring their banks to the local March meeting in Seditia instead of the April meeting. Well, they had fun emptying the banks and counting the money. But then, Mary sent the piggy banks home with them to put more money in and bring back to the April meeting so they’ll have more to take to Conference.

Remember, supporting this project will help your own local League, and state League. My mom, Ima Hogg, and Granny Hogg will be expecting a report on how well everyone did and what projects are being planned.

I look forward to seeing you in April.

—Peggy Piggy

Want to know what’s happening at the Legislature that is of interest to the LWV? Read the *LWV Legislative Bulletin*. The “Bulletin” is published once or twice a month during the legislative session and is sent via email to LWV members. Watch for it in your email box.

If you prefer to receive a copy by regular mail, please send \$10 to:

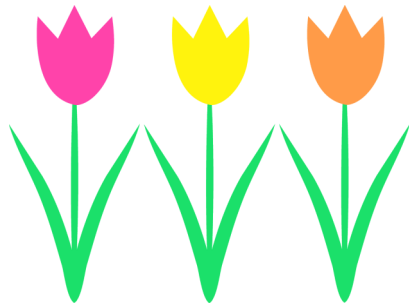
LWV Missouri
 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104
 St. Louis, MO 63144



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League of Women Voters of Missouri
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis MO 63144-2733

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



LWVMO SPRING CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, APRIL 30—COLUMBIA

***Information and registration form
inside this issue***

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MO 63144 All other correspondence to Elaine Blodgett at the same address.

Voice: 314-961-6869

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org