



Missouri Voter

Volume 78, Issue 3

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

May/June 2017

President's Message

Dear Members,

I am very excited and honored to become the president of the Missouri LWV; it is a role I take very seriously. While I take my duties seriously, I don't take myself very seriously and my family wouldn't let me if I tried. We have to be able to enjoy what we are working on or it becomes a burdensome chore instead of a labor of love.

As we get ever closer to the League's 100th anniversary, I see our original focus of non-partisan educational efforts as our most important goal to achieve. Our reputation as fair and non-partisan is our most important and precious asset, and we cannot risk tarnishing it at this late date. I am sure that many times in the last 90 years, some League members woke up the day after the election and were not happy with the results. I am also sure that the LWV's founding women did not always agree on how to reach their goals; some wanted silent protest lines while others were more radical and wanted to get arrested to get more publicity, but they were able to work together and not be unpleasant with each other. As I told those attending the 2017 convention in Springfield, I am not a "bleeding heart liberal," and that is OK as there are enough members who are, so we balance out each other. Both sides need to be heard from. I can be convinced to change my opinion by facts and examples, but I am a born and bred Missourian, so you have to show me.

I look forward to meeting you one-on-one as I get around the state to your local meetings. Please call me if your League is hosting a special function that would be good for me to attend, and I will try to get it on my calendar. We have an exciting future ahead of us.

—Kathleen Boswell (660-620-1213)

P.S. Start thinking about the national convention next spring in Chicago and make your plans to attend since we can drive instead of fly, or maybe we should take the train like we did 20-plus years ago!



Report from the 63rd Annual Convention

The 63rd Annual Convention of LWVMO was held in Springfield, MO on April 28-29. Local Leagues present with delegates were Columbia/Boone County; Kansas City/Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties; Mexico/Audrain County; Moberly/Randolph County; Metro St. Louis; Sedalia/Pettis County; and Southwest Missouri. No delegates from Southeast Missouri were able to attend. There were 30 local delegates, 5 delegates from the State Board, and 12 observers and guests.

President Elaine Blodgett shared her belief that the League of Women Voters still serves a purpose and when she came on State board has worked with LWVUS on MLD; growing membership at local League level. Photo ID has been an energizing issue and was wonderful to work with other organizations across the state to attempt to defeat Amendment 6. She noted that we must continue to work to make sure everyone who is eligible has the right to register AND vote. Elaine wished the new Board much success and added that the new Executive Director will be a great addition to the League's success.

The new Executive Director, Elizabeth McDonald, was introduced and she gave a brief presentation telling us about her experiences in non-profit organizations, including grant manager, policy level, development, etc. She said that beginning her work for the LWV, her first step will be to "listen" and determine what is needed and will then put a plan into action.

The Keynote Address was presented by Rep. Crystal Quade, MO District 132, Greene County spoke about her experience as Freshman Legislator and what it is like being a political minority and a woman in the Legislator. (see related article on page 4)

Each local League gave a brief summary of their work (see page 6)

Two of the LWVMO's prestigious awards were presented. The *Lenore Loeb Award* was presented to Kathleen Farrell for her work as Team Leader for St. Louis Voters' Guide as well as other major activities which has led to great success by the Metro St. Louis LWV. The *Harriett Woods Award* was presented to Peg Prendergast of Kansas City area LWV for her exemplary community service as a Red Cross Volunteer. (see page 3)

The business of the Convention included approval of a budget for the next two years which includes additional financial commitments by local Leagues and members. A few program items were revised: under "Constitutional Revision" deletion of the sentence "Support of a permanent constitutional commission in addition to other methods for initiating change" and adding a statement under Natural Resources: "Recognizing manmade climate change as a critical threat to the planet." A change in the bylaws was approved to allow for co-presidents.

Nancy Copenhaver gave an update on tax-related legislation and Linda McDaniel brought us up to date on the implementation of the new Voter Photo ID law and the need to be involved in educating the public about the changes.

A heartfelt note of thanks to the members of the LWV Southwest MO, under the leadership of Lorraine Sandstrom, who did a wonderful job with the arrangements and hosting the event.



Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award - To Kathleen Farrell

This Award was presented to Kathleen Farrell, St. Louis Metro LWV, for her work as Team Leader for her work with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on the St. Louis Voters' Guide, which can include hundreds of candidates and dozens of ballot issues, working with as many as 45 volunteers. Her work has led to phenomenal results including increasing the presence of the LWV-MSTL in their region. Kathleen wasn't able to attend the Convention; Linda McDaniel (pictured) accepted the Award for her.



Harriett Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service—To Peg Prendergast

This Award was presented to Peg Prendergast, LWV of KC/J/C/P, for her work as a Red Cross Volunteer in which she received disaster training and has responded to numerous fires and other disasters, including Superstorm Sandy. In 2016, she was recognized for logging the most volunteer hours with the Greater KC Chapter of the Red Cross. Her extraordinary work with the KC area LWV included serving as co-leader of their Voters' Guide and establishing their VOTE411.com website.



Crystal Quade, state representative

Crystal Quade, state representative from District 132 of the Missouri House, gave the keynote address at the State Convention. She is only one of 37 women out of 160 elected members and the only Democrat elected from south of Columbia. She represents a very diverse area of Springfield, including 4 universities, the downtown area, and a low income area of the city. When she ran, she knocked on 18,000 doors after being involved in the community by volunteering, and being involved in commissions and boards which is a way to earn credibility in a community.

She shared aspects of her experience as a first time legislator. She has found a few surprising things: one thing is finding personal time to even find time to eat! She has been surprised by the lack of institutional knowledge by state legislators which is primarily due to term limits since a person can only serve 8 years in the House. Rep. Quade has found it surprising (and a positive thing) to find allies across party lines who can work together despite the divisiveness between the political parties. The salary is low; most have to have another job. She believes serving in the Legislature should be treated as a profession and voters should be the focus.

Rep. Quade is working on encouraging other women to run for office. Statistically, when women run, they can win. She noted the importance of the LWV as an educational process for new leaders.

Donations Recently Received—They enable us to do our work for Missouri and Missouri League.

TO LWVMO

Three Member contributions for a total of \$280.00 responses from fundraising letter.
One Member memorial contribution for \$25.00

LWVMO - Education Fund

One Member contribution for \$100.00 response from fundraising letter.
One Member memorial contribution for \$50.00
One Member contribution designated for Columbia-Boone County League for \$65.00

Welcome to our New Executive Director—Elizabeth McDonald



The new LWV executive director started on April 28, 2017 at the Missouri State LWV Convention in Springfield. Elizabeth McDonald has been in nonprofit leadership since 2002. Her roles in finance, fundraising, communication, and organizational development give her a comprehensive understanding of strategic management and advocacy for a mission.

As a consultant, Elizabeth has helped several small nonprofits grow their communication and fundraising capacity. She serves as board secretary for a small St. Louis arts festival and believes that volunteering is one of the best ways to meet people and learn about projects and places.

She believes strongly in the power of people to effect big change and hopes to be a part of that change in her work and her life.

The Executive Director is a joint position between the LWV of St. Louis and the LWV of Missouri. She will work part-time for the state LWV.

Voter ID Implementation

The LWVMO is a member of a “Voter Protection Coalition” that worked against the Voter Photo ID Constitutional Amendment before the November 2016 election. After its passage in November, the Coalition determined to continue to work to ensure that every Missouri citizen is able to vote. The new Photo Voter ID law was implemented on June 1, 2017.

There were several press conferences around the state on June 1, including St. Louis, Kansas City and Marshall, MO in regard to concerns about the new law. Here are links to a few articles (and media) in regard to this:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: [On eve of new Missouri photo ID voting law, opponents equate it to 'Jim Crow'](#)

Marshall Democrat-News: [Groups speak out against implementation of Missouri voter ID law](#)

KSHB: [New photo ID law goes into effect June 1 for Missouri voters, opposition speaks out](#)

For information about the implementation from the Secretary of State’s office, click on this link:

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/showit2vote>

Local League Reports

At the State Convention, each local League president (or representative) presented an oral report of their activities:

St. Louis Metro LWV – Nancy Miller thanked her predecessors Linda McDaniel and Kathleen Ferrell. Membership grew from January 290 to now 337. They moderated 52 Forums, made 72 Speaker Bureaus presentations, distributed over 57K Voter Guides. There were 135 active volunteers, seven active committees and have 33 partners and had over 2200 volunteer hours. St. Louis has a Speakers Bureau committee and has ten PowerPoint presentations that they take out to the community.

Moberly LWV – Nancy Copenhaver shared that they continue with an active Observer Core of County Commission and City Council. They had a gathering of legislators for Town Hall where each was able to speak about priorities; a local reporter did the moderating of questions.

Sedalia LWV – Kathleen Boswell shared that the local newspaper donated the printing for their Voters' Guide and included it in the local newspaper; they had state information and 3 counties included in their Guide.

Kansas City/JCP LWV – Linda Smith recognized her co-president Donna Hoch and shared KC did over 45 registration drives with 110 volunteer hours. In addition, Kauffman Stadium allowed League members to hold a voter registration drive prior to two games and prior to deadline to register to vote. KC also partnered with Women of NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha in Bridging the Gap of Sisterhood. For the November Election they distributed 10K copies of the printed Voters' Guide, wrote letters to the Editor, *The Call* (African American newspaper); for the April KC election, they produced its Vote 411 Voters' Guide; held three Candidate Forums, three Issues Forums and grew its membership from 88 members in January to currently 114 members; Leadership is and will be key to growth in membership.

SWMO – Kelly Wood reported membership grew from 80 to currently over 122 members; conducted New Member Orientation. They seek what members want to get involved in; in addition they have Rally Groups for new members to get/keep them engaged. They do Voter Outreach and the Sustainability committee participates in community clean up. Their Voters' Guide has grown from printing 10K copies in 2016 to over 17K copies in November and LWV was successful in getting a copy of 1st Voter Registration list in Greene County.

Columbia/Boone County – Peggy Placier reported they did a Legislative Town Hall. Noted that membership remains constant at around 145 members. Although they did not have a surge in membership, they have had a surge in attendance at meetings; they produced A Citizen Guide to Crafting a Message for Elected Officials and presented to the public in a workshop. In memory of long time League member, they created Liz Schmidt Community Award.

Mexico - Emogene Fox reported they have three new members growing to a total of 14 members; they continue to do Voter Registration; held Mock Elections at schools. They held Candidate Forum for County Office, City Council and School Board elections. Through the Education Fund they distributed a handout "How a Bill becomes a Law" and shared that they have applied for a Grant from a Charitable Trust. Working with their County Clerk they will create a program that will educate Voters on Amendment 6 implementation.



Photo: New LWVMO Board Members and past president Elaine Blodgett.

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

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

Nominating Committee
 Peggy Placier, Chair (Columbia)
 Pauline Testerman (KC)
 Elaine Blodgett (Columbia)

Executive Director: Elizabeth McDonald

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson
 LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer



CALENDAR — 2017

June 16—LWVMO Board meeting—
St. Louis

August 25—LWVMO Board meet-
ing—Columbia

October 27—LWVMO Board meet-
ing—Sedalia

October 28—LWVMO Fall Confer-
ence— Sedalia



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LWV Statement on the Paris Climate Agreement

Chris Carson, president of the LWVUS, issued the following statement on June 1, 2017:

“Withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement is a giant step in the wrong direction for the health of the planet and all living beings. President Trump’s decision [to withdraw] ...will undermine global cooperation and have a harmful impact on U.S. relations with our most trusted world allies. The long-term effects of this decision will make more people sick, especially children and the elderly. The League of Women Voters is gravely disappointed to see the United States on the wrong side of history in the fight to protect our planet.”

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