



# Missouri Voter

Volume 77, Issue 3

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

May/June 2016

## President's Message



Dear LWV members,

### WHAT DOES AMERICA LOOK LIKE?

"Our challenge this year"

With all that's going on in the country right now, it's difficult to zero in on just one topic to discuss. Most of us have been tuned into some party presidential or Missouri gubernatorial candidate debates. We do know that we are in the middle of liberal and conservative values disagreements. Almost no issue is off the table: guns, safety, random violence and terrorism, wars overseas, immigrants and walls to keep them out, religious choice, the economy, and the list goes on. Members might engage conversation on "what does a 'Great America' look and act like? Getting dialogue going is critical.

League has its work cut out. Some of it will be the 'same old same old': make sure people get registered to vote in our towns and counties; make sure our debates and issues are balanced and fair. Handing out straight information on issues with both sides represented. That has always been important for League. And, don't forget, we will be working with others on some of the state wide ballots issues supporting or opposing ballot issues.

(continued on page 2)

### CALENDAR 2016

- June 16-19  
LWVUS  
Convention—  
Washington, DC
- LWVMO Board—  
July 9  
Columbia
- "Celebrate the  
Vote" - Sept. 3 -  
St. Louis
- LWVMO Board—  
September 10  
(location TBD)
- LWVMO Board—  
November 12—  
Sedalia.
- November 13-  
Fall Conference

### 2017

- LWVMO Board -  
January 14  
Columbia (snow  
date Jan 21)
- LWVMO Board -  
March 11  
Columbia.

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

*League must do more this year.*

Again, much in the area of reaching the community through conversations, ads and brief spots on television. That could be actual meetings, radio or television programs or ads. Conversations would take place about community needs, like gun ownership? Or, what would building walls at the southern American border accomplish for immigration and do we really tolerate different religious beliefs? What about public budgeting—more money for what? Less money for what? (schools, health care, highways and roads, so many real and perhaps perceived problems).

Let's lead in the discussion and bring about community conversations about what America is and should look like. It's time and it's needed.

—Elaine Blodgett

## Missouri Elections

### Current—ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF VOTER ID:

- Identification issued by the state of Missouri, an agency of the state, or a local election authority of the state
- Identification issued by the United States government or agency thereof
- Identification issued by an institution of higher education, including a university, college, vocational and technical school, located within the state of Missouri
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains the name and address of the voter
- Driver's license or state identification card issued by another state

If you do not possess any of these forms of identification, you may still cast a ballot if two supervising election judges, one from each major political party, attest they know you.

This information from the Missouri Secretary of State website:

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



## Voter Photo ID Goes to the November Ballot

House Joint Resolution 53, which requires a person seeking to vote in person in Missouri to present a valid government-issued photo identification, will be on the November 2016 ballot. The measure would amend article VIII of the Constitution of Missouri and adopt one new section relating to elections. The General Assembly has the power to submit the measure to the voters of the state without the Governor's approval.

HB1631, the enabling legislation that spells out the particulars of how this measure would be implemented requires the Governor's signature. LWVMO has urged Governor Nixon to veto it, which then would be taken up at a September veto override legislative session.

The League is a key player in the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, a Missouri right to vote organizing campaign headed by Denise Liebermann, of the national Advancement Project and also a member of LWV-STL. Other groups in the coalition include the ACLU, NAACP, NARAL, NCJW, Empower Missouri and Jobs with Justice. Approximately 30 organizations have joined the coalition to oppose the ballot initiative.

In addition to working with the coalition, the League has received an \$8,000 grant from LWVUS to produce and air radio ads in areas with local Leagues and Kirksville to educate the public about the reasons to oppose Voter Photo ID. In addition to radio ads, press releases, letters to the editor, speaker materials and social media tips will be developed with local Leagues. The St. Louis office will coordinate these efforts from June through the November election.

Nothing is more precious than our right to vote. Since 2011, the attack on voting rights has been the largest attack on our franchise since the post-Reconstruction era. While supporters of Voter Photo ID contend that it is intended to prevent voter fraud, studies report that there are no verified cases of voter fraud in Missouri. Clearly, the move for Voter Photo ID is to raise barriers for groups who have been underrepresented in the political process- notably seniors, students, the disabled and people of color.

Look for more announcements as we embark on our work to defeat HJR 53.

—Kathleen Farrell & Linda McDaniel, PAVP directors.

## Local League News

### *Moberly LWV*

Every May, all the schools in Randolph County join together for an event called "Ethics in the Workplace." About 250 seniors attend at MACC for the day. League members were there to register those who had not already registered to vote, both before the workshop and during the lunch break. League was pleased that so many had already registered but were able to add about another dozen voters.

June 7-11 is an annual event in Moberly, Railroad Days. There are a number of activities bringing people of all ages to the downtown area for music shows, baby contests, carnival, and "make your own art" for children. League members will be at several of these events with their voter registration forms, hoping to sign up many more new voters, particularly targeting young parents who may not be registered or folks new to our community.

Our annual meeting was ably hosted by Karen Berding for a salad supper. Dues were addressed, new officers were elected, and reports were given by several of our observers. Questions, answers, and discussion were lively as we all recognized this great service to our local community that we perform by attending the many meetings of elected and appointed boards and commissions. Several of our members have "jobs" due to their former observer status, namely chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission (Connie Asbury), Historical Preservation Commission (Carolee Hazlett and Connie Asbury), Health Department Board (Karen Berding), Tourism Advisory Commission (Nancy Copenhaver), YMCA Board (Connie Asbury). We continue to monitor meetings of the Randolph County Commission, Moberly School Board, MACC Board of Trustees, Moberly City Council, Randolph County Ambulance District Board, Moberly Park Board, Moberly Housing Authority Board, Little Dixie Library Board. Some of our members are also past members of some of these as well.

This being the sesquicentennial year for Moberly, a book is being published with happenings in the last fifty years--since the last book. The Moberly-Randolph County League will be prominently featured in the book with our history and important participation in the life of our community. The books are at the printer and plans are to begin distribution by the end of Railroad Days.  
—Nancy Copenhaver

### *LWV of Southwest Missouri*

The summer months bring a favorite time for our League as we host our monthly Summer Sounding Boards. In lieu of monthly unit meetings, the sounding boards are held the 3rd Saturday of the month at a member's home. These are a casual coffee and brunch gathering with a different topic for discussion. Our June event will discuss our action plan for the "Get Out The Vote" fall season and gear up for the November election. There is much to do including new voter registration events, collecting candidate information for the Voters' Guide, organizing candidate forums and working with the Greene County Clerk's office on innovative voting reminders.

We welcomed 7 new members to the League at our recent new member orientation! They are all excited, interesting, vibrant women who are ready to jump in and help with all the activities for the fall election season. Let the work - and the fun - begin!

—Leslie Carrier



### **Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award**

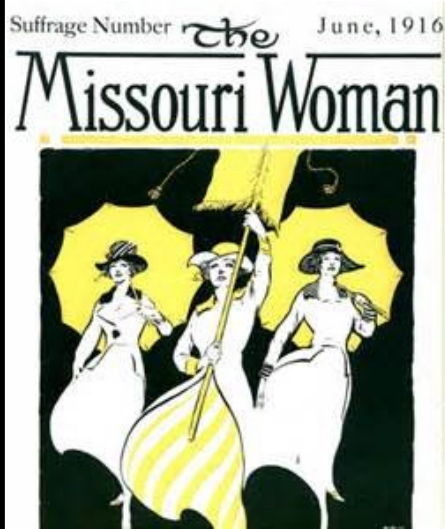
At the LWVMO Spring Conference in Columbia, the Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award was presented to the *League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri*.

In the photo, left to right: *Ann Elwell, Kelly Wood, Leslie Carrier, Lois Detrick*

The Award recognizes their outstanding project on the Accessibility and Affordability of Mental Health Services in Greene County. In the course of two years beginning in May 2013, the LWVSWMO conducted more than 20 informational activities and met with mental health care service providers, members of law enforcement, correctional and judicial systems, advocacy/support groups, local and state officials, and families of mental health patients. During the course of their study, they determined that, although a wide variety of services is available locally, funding is inadequate and the supply does not meet the demand. The Greene County jail is, by default, the largest mental health facility in Southwest Missouri. State funding continues to decrease.

The LWVSWMO moved into the advocacy phase of the project in August 2015. They convened the Ozarks Mental Health Network. As a result of their study, they will continue to review solutions developed in other communities, and to develop relationships in the community. They agreed to: promote mental/behavioral health as a public policy issue on par with physical health and physical disabilities; advocate for increased accessibility and affordability of mental health care services for adults in Greene County with treatment based on need and not on the ability to pay; support efforts to divert mentally ill people from the Greene County jail and into appropriate mental health treatment; advocate for additional funding structures for mental health care; and encourage and work with other organizations seeking to promote accessibility and affordability of mental health services for all.

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 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, put it on your calendars and join us in St. Louis to Celebrate the Vote!***

### ***LWVMO Spring Conference***

About 40 LWV members from around the state came together in Columbia on Saturday, April 30 for our Spring Conference.

Kathleen Farrell and Linda McDaniel, co-presidents, LWV of St. Louis, presented a session with information about the upcoming constitutional ballot issue requiring a photo voter ID. Research shows that the general public has insufficient information about the issue and does not understand how such a constitutional amendment, which if passed, will deny their right to vote.

Kathleen and Linda also shared ideas on how to make your local League indispensable in the upcoming months with ideas for "getting out the vote" in your area. The attendees were asked whether they would want to participate in supporting a statewide Voters Guide.

Professor Marvin Overby of the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri gave us a historic overview of "Contested Conventions" (which was much in the news at the time of the conference).

The Rachel Farr Fitch Award was presented to LWVSWMO for their outstanding project focusing on mental health services in their part of the state. In conjunction with the Award, Dr. Jeffrey Bryan of MU shared his very important and interesting cancer research involving comparative oncology.

Everyone present participated in preparing a 60-second video about Missouri LWV to send to national Convention, under the capable direction of Kathleen Boswell.

Thanks to the committee members (Kathleen Farrell, Mary Merritt, Kathleen Boswell, Janie Riley, Elaine Blodgett and Marilyn McLeod) and Julie and Anna for LWVMO staff support.

**Officers**

**President:** Elaine Blodgett  
**Vice President:** Mary Merritt  
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**Nancy Copenhaver:** Tax Policy  
**Dianne Modrell:** Health  
**Kathleen Farrell:** Voter Service  
**Linda McDaniel:** Elections  
**Marty Ott:** Legislative Action  
**Marilyn McLeod:** MO Voter  
**Janie Riley:** Membership Development

**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**

**LWV - Contributions Recently Received**

Member contributions:

***LWVMO***

1 pledge contribution for \$100.00  
2 contributions totaling \$550.00

***LWVMO EDUCATION FUND***

2 contributions totaling \$550.00  
1 pledge payment for \$250.00  
1 contribution of \$250.00 with a matching gift of \$250.00 from donor's employer.

***—Contributions are always greatly appreciated.***

***To be tax-deductible make your check payable to LWVMO Education Fund. For non tax-deductible make your check payable to LWVMO.***

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

Dear League Members,

We are pleased to announce that we raised the following amounts with our “Peggy” fundraiser from our local chapters:

- KC/JCP \$134.00
- Sedalia/Pettis \$60.50
- Columbia/Boone \$70.00
- Metro St. Louis \$30.45

—Peggy





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

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### *Election Calendar*

Primary Election—August 2, 2016  
Last day to register: July 6

General Election—November 8, 2016  
Last day to register: October 12

*Thanks to the Leagues that help people get registered to vote!*



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