



Missouri Voter

Volume 79, Issue 4

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

July/August 2018

Missouri sends 20 Delegates to LWVUS 53rd Biennial Convention

Twenty women from Missouri enjoyed **Creating a More Perfect Democracy**, the 2018 National Convention at the Chicago Hilton. The jam-packed schedule included extensive plenary sessions on the 2018-20 Program and Budget.

LWVUS President Chris Carson (pictured at right) introduced new CEO Virginia Kase who said, “We are the power of women coming together to defend democracy. We are the sum of our own collective voices.”



Banquet speaker Elaine Weiss, the author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, inspired the audience with details of how Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul and others worked to get the Tennessee Legislature to adopt the 19th Amendment in 1920.

See page 3 for details from the Convention



Missouri's delegation to the LWVUS convention poses at the Chicago Hilton. Pictured are Sydell Shayer, Debby Howard, Jennifer Rushing, Catherine Stenger, Louise Wilkerson, Nancy Miller, Bella White, Jean Dugan and Angie Dunlap (Metro St. Louis); Cheryl Barnes, Donna Hoch, Evelyn Maddox and Pauline Testerman (KC); Meredith Donaldson and Sharon Schneeberger (Columbia); Kathleen Boswell and Mary Merritt (Sedalia); Joan Gentry and Lorraine Sandstrom (SWMO) and Jill Young (SEMO).

Message from the President

Well, it has been hot this summer but that hasn't slowed down the LWVMO members. As I sat down to write this, I found out that Clean Missouri will get its re-districting proposition on the ballot in November. There will be several news conferences on Aug. 15, so I will make a trip to Jefferson City for that. Congrats to the St. Louis members who have taken the lead on this issue.



At the end of June, 20 LWVMO members joined nearly 1,000 Leaguers from across the nation at the convention in Chicago. It was an interesting meeting with a wide variety of guest speakers. The highlight for me was our wares booth with all of the great merchandise we have, especially the suffragette pin (\$10) and a fabric version for a photo opportunity. Myrna Ragar designed both 23 years ago for the League's 75th anniversary. Mary Merritt and I decided to get "the lady" out of storage and she was a hit. We even had a large floral hat for members to wear as they stood behind the

fabric panel and I snapped their photo with their phones. We had set out a donation box and got about \$250 for our efforts. We will be sure to have the photo op set up at fall workshop and as many other 2019 events as we can get her to.

On July 20-21, the state board met in Mexico and planned out the calendar for 2019 and 2020. We want to make 2019 a celebration of LWVMO's 100th anniversary and 2020 the celebration of the 19th amendment. This is an excuse to dress up and throw lots of parties. One of the best ideas I heard came from the St. Louis planning committee. They suggested that all local Leagues have members in costumes from the early 1900s and walk or ride in any parade their community hosts in the next year and a half.



We also set the locations for fall workshop (Sedalia on Nov. 10) and LWVMO Convention (St. Louis on May 4), so watch for more details to come. I hope to see many of you in November here in Sedalia; it is a great, inexpensive way to get new members acquainted with the way League works and with members from around the state. I promise it will be cooler then.

— Kathleen Boswell

P.S. Special thanks to board member Sharon Swon of Mexico for making great arrangements for the two-day board meeting!

53RD LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION—2018



Delegates at the recent convention voted to continue the **Campaign for Making Democracy Work[®]** as amended. That includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on **Voting Rights, Improving Elections** and advocacy for the **National Popular Vote Compact, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting**.

Delegates also voted to retain all current LWVUS positions in the areas of **Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy**.

Other positions, affirmations and studies that will be the basis for League Program, or actions, for 2018–2020 include the following.

- When the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** is duly ratified by the 38th state, the LWVUS will take the required steps to see the Amendment through whatever judicial or other challenges may occur until we see the ERA added to the U. S. Constitution in clear, bold, black and white.
- Support an **emphasis on the ERA this year and every year until the ERA is ratified** and becomes a U.S. Constitutional Amendment. Be it resolved that the LWVUS **supports efforts to remove the time limits for ratification of the ERA**.
- Make **gun control, gun safety and gun ownership limitations** priorities in lobbying efforts.
- **Reaffirm its long-held position that the Electoral College should be abolished.**
- Reaffirm commitment to the constitutional **right of privacy as an individual to make reproductive choices**.
- Stand united with **efforts to price carbon emissions**—whether cap-and-trade, carbon tax/fee or another viable pricing mechanism. The League does not have a position on how the revenue generated is to be used. We do not espouse any single method of pricing carbon over another. We will evaluate all proposed methods based on their effectiveness to abate emissions and whether the method can be successfully implemented.
- **Support a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science.** These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C (34.7°F), informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris agreement.





YES ON 1

To clean up Missouri politics

Clean Up Missouri Initiative Certified for November Ballot

Bipartisan coalition fighting to clean up Missouri politics

The Missouri Secretary of State's office has certified Amendment 1 to appear on the November 6 ballot. That means voters will have a chance this November to increase integrity, transparency, fairness and accountability in state government.

Amendment 1 will:

- **eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts** in the General Assembly
- **require that legislative records be open to the public**
- **lower campaign contribution limits** for state legislative candidates
- **require politicians to wait two years** if they want to become lobbyists
- **ensure that neither political party is given an unfair advantage when new maps are drawn after the next census**, by adding criteria for fairness and competitiveness of the overall map, which will be reviewed by a citizen commission and keep compact and contiguous districts

"Amendment 1 is a chance to increase fairness, integrity and transparency in government," said **Kathleen Boswell, President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri**. "Year after year, politicians are re-elected with big money, in districts drawn by politicians and party insiders. Amendment 1 limits the influence of special interests in the legislature and ensures no party is given an unfair advantage when redistricting occurs after the next census. Amendment 1 establishes clear, transparent criteria to ensure fair and competitive maps, which are then reviewed by a citizens commission."

"Amendment 1 will ensure fair and competitive elections so elected officials cannot take their voters for granted and must earn their support," said Republican former U.S. Senator John Danforth. "I'm proud to be part of a bipartisan group of reformers to ensure voters come first — and that Missourians' voices will always be heard in our democracy. Amendment 1 will increase integrity, transparency, and accountability in state government."

"Lobbyists and a small group of big donors have too much control over Missouri state government," says Pastor Cassandra Gould, Executive Director of Missouri Faith Voices. "But it doesn't have to be this way. Amendment 1 will make our state government more transparent."

The League of Women Voters of Missouri has endorsed Amendment 1.

League Wins Redistricting Advocacy Grant

LWVMO is using a grant from the LWVUS Education Fund to educate voters about the need to have a better system of redistricting to ensure fairness after each U.S. Census.

Redistricting refers to the process by which new congressional and legislative boundaries are redrawn every 10 years following the U.S. Census. The federal government requires that districts have nearly equal populations, be competitive, and not discriminate based on race or ethnicity.

Bipartisan commissions currently develop Missouri's 163 House districts (average population of 37,000) and 34 Senate districts (average population of 174,000). The state of Missouri requires that boundaries be contiguous (physically adjacent), compact (constituents live close to one another), and account for county boundaries.

The League of Women Voters of Missouri has worked for decades to ensure that the final maps are fair. As Sydell Shayer said in 1991, "We contend that the purpose of apportionment is to guarantee fair and equal access to the political process for all citizens. The probability of political participation increases if citizens believe that they have equal opportunity to influence government." Ten years later, Linda McDaniel said, "Districts should be apportioned substantially on population with compact and contiguous districts, recognizing that there are diverse interests within them and that broad communities of interests should be kept intact. Minority representation should be protected."

As stated in the grant application, "We have a unique opportunity in Missouri to stop political and racial gerrymandering and achieve more representative democracy." Section 3 of the CLEAN Missouri Initiative (Amendment 1 on the November ballot) says a professional nonpartisan demographer should establish districts on the basis of total population and "take into account the rights of racial and language minorities and design districts to achieve both partisan fairness and competitiveness." The maps would then be reviewed by bipartisan citizen commissions.

The last week of the legislative session, St. Louis League Co-President Nancy Miller testified in Jefferson City against HJR100, a bill that would have undermined CLEAN MO's redistricting changes. She stressed the LWV position that political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials.

The LWVMO position is as follows:

"Reapportionment of legislative and congressional districts should be done by bipartisan redistricting commissions appointed by the Governor from lists submitted by party committees. If a redistricting commission fails to agree within the specified time limit, the task should be given to the appropriate commission or panel of judges."

**FAIR Districts =
FAIR Elections**

Join the 2019-2021 State Board: Call for Nominations!

While much work of LWV happens at the local level, member dues also support state level actions and a state level office. The need for a state level organization is especially evident when state legislation or ballot measures affect voting rights or elections (as with Voter ID). LWV of Missouri keeps us all informed when statewide activities arise that affect our mission.

Every two years we elect 12 board members (4 Officers and 8 Directors) to lead the League of Women Voters of Missouri. The next election will take place at the State Convention in spring 2019. According to state bylaws, the Nominating Committee (Peggy Placier, Elaine Blodgett, Pauline Testerman, Marge Bramer, Debby Howard) begins to solicit nominations in the fall before the Convention.

We must present a slate to members no later than six weeks before the Convention.

The State Board is a chance to use your leadership and information skills on the state level. The benefits of board membership include:

- Getting to learn more about Missouri and the specific issues important to all local Leagues — big cities and small towns.
- Keeping up with two or three political issues important to the League in the Missouri Legislature.
- Meeting or visiting local Leagues around the state.
- Working on special projects to benefit Leagues.

Membership on the State Board entails six meetings per year held at different sites in Missouri. If you like to travel the state and meet new people, this is for you. We also hope to have every local League represented on the Board.

Please submit your nominations (including self-nominations) to: Peggy Placier, State Nominating Committee Chair, pplacier@centurylink.net.

Advocating for National Popular Vote

Lifetime member Sydell Shayer is chairing a new committee to support the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). A 2015 poll showed 75% of Missourians support using the popular vote instead of the U.S. Electoral College to elect the president. Legislatures in 11 states and the District of

Columbia have committed to giving all their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote nationwide.

Adding another 98 electoral votes to those 172 already committed would reach the 270 electoral votes needed. The League supports the election of the president and vice-president by direct popular vote and works to abolish the U.S. Electoral College. Delegates at the recent LWVUS Convention voted to have the LWVUS provide resources to state Leagues working to get their state legislatures to pass NPV legislation.

If you are interested in the work of this committee, contact Sydell at slshayer@gmail.com.



League of Women Voters of Missouri

Officers

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

Directors

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

Nominating Committee

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

Administrative Manager: Jean Dugan
 Historian and Voter Protection Coalition Liaison:
 Linda McDaniel
 LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson
 LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer



GET OUT THE VOTE!!

The St. Louis League wants to put one of these signs in every member's yard a week before each election. Mary Merritt has agreed to produce the signs, along with a wire stand. They will be weather resistant, perfect for storage and then use for every election!

Let's make this a Missouri tradition!

Contact Mary Merritt at bannerlady@ragar-banners.com.



2018 CALENDAR

August 25: Women's Equality Day - St. Louis

Sept. 14: LWVMO Board Meeting, Columbia

Nov. 6: General Election

Nov. 9-10: Fall Workshop, Sedalia

2019

January 11: LWVMO Board Meeting in Columbia

March 15: LWVMO Board Meeting in Springfield

May 4-5: LWVMO Board Meeting and State Convention in St. Louis

June 5: Centennial of Missouri passing the 19th Amendment.

Oct. 16-18: Centennial of Missouri League of Women Voters.

2020

Aug. 18: Centennial of women's suffrage victory. Tennessee was 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

Memorials and Contributions

Contribution in memory of Jack Howard from Marge Bramer

Contributions, tributes and memorials are always welcome! You can send a donation to:

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

It will be greatly appreciated!

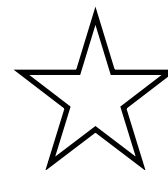


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***Missouri Women's Network
31st Annual Equality Day Brunch
98th Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote***



Saturday, August 25

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.)
Clayton Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet, Clayton, MO 63105

Featured speaker: historian Martha S. Jones

Honorees: Ellen Alper, Rep. Stacey Newman, Sonja Gholston-Byrd, Jane Mudd

For more information, contact: Pat Shores, apatriciashores@att.net

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