



# Missouri Voter

Volume 76, Issue 6

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

November/December 2015

## President's Message



*Elaine Mitchell Blodgett  
LWVMO President*

“Continues”

John Blodgett brought in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* the other morning which was folded in half, and noted part of the headline, “Continues” and added “That just about sums it all up.” Both of us laughed and agreed that both the good and the bad news just keep coming.

The good news is that December is a holiday season with lots of celebrations and the Winter solstice, meaning the sunshine will increase a little bit every day until June — hold on to that thought in January and February.

In the meantime, League will continue with our work of letting our citizens know about registration for voting, learning about the candidates in the races in their area and presenting forums on both issues and candidates. Then there’s the bad or at least ominous news. Having listened to debates between Republican, Democratic and independent presidential candidates, it looks to be a year of major discussion about what people want for the United States and just who we are. We all are not in agreement and it looks as if we are at a crossroads. Just what will the US look like in the future? Most folks are concerned about their own safety, the economy, ISIS, higher taxes, health care, immigrants and the ability to just make a decent living. Currently, Missouri representatives and senators are submitting bills to address many of these issues — some good, some not so good. And League continues its work.

(continued on page 6)

### CALENDAR 2016

- January 12—  
LWVMO  
Capitol Action Day—  
Jefferson City
- January 23—  
LWVMO Board Mtg.  
(Snow date: Jan. 30)
- February 23—  
Candidate Filing Day  
-Jefferson City
- March 5—LWVMO  
Board Mtg. -  
Columbia
- April 29-30—  
LWVMO Board  
Meeting and Spring  
Workshop
- May 20 (tentative)  
LWVMO Planning  
Meeting
- June 16-19 LWVUS  
Convention—  
Washington, DC

**Happy  
Holidays!**

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION CALENDAR 2015-2016

DECEMBER, 2015 – Establish LWVMO Legislative Priorities

JANUARY 6, 2016 Missouri General Assembly convenes

JANUARY 12, 2016 Capitol Action Day- *League members distribute priority cards to Legislators and State Executive Officers- Volunteers needed! Meet in the Rotunda, First Floor at 9:30 am.*

*LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN* will resume in January, 2016. Dates to be determined.

*\*Local presidents, please survey members if they are receiving this publication. If not, contact the State Joint Office, 314.961.6869.*

FEBRUARY 23, 2016- First day for candidates to file for MO State Representative, State Senator in odd number districts, and State Executive Offices, except State Auditor.

*Laura Worstell (Mexico), Lael Von Holt (Columbia) and Mary Merritt (Sedalia) are organizing this traditional League event to welcome candidates, 8am to 12 noon at the Kirkpatrick Secretary of State Office. League members are encouraged to come and help welcome candidates filing on the first day, February 23, 2016.*

MARCH 15, 2016 Missouri Presidential Primary Election Day

APRIL 12, 2016- Women's Equality Pay Day at the Capitol- *Please mark your calendar to join state League members and other like-minded women organizations to rally for equal pay, passage of ERA and voting rights for all American citizens.*

MAY 13, 2016 – Legislature Adjourns

**\*PLEASE WATCH FOR ACTION ALERTS DURING THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS CRITICALLY PERTAINING TO LEAGUE'S POSITIONS!**

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### *Fall Conference*

The LWVMO Annual Fall Conference was held on November 7 in Sedalia. About 40 members attended, representing 7 of the 8 local Leagues. There was a great feeling of fellowship among the attendees — all ready to learn and to share their ideas.

Linda McDaniel and Kathleen Farrell provided background on the topic of “Money in Politics”, the current consensus topic. The League’s position is to combat corruption in the political process and to enable candidates to compete equitably. Each of the local League presidents will receive a flash drive with a copy of their PowerPoint presentation to use in their local community.

Nick LaStrada, the Pettis County Clerk, briefly reviewed the history of elections. He noted that we are still using technology from the 1970’s. New technology is becoming available, such as being able to vote via your phone. He said changes are in the works, but county clerks need to be willing to adapt and funds are needed for new equipment. Future ideas include voting by biometrics (e.g., using a thumbprint or face scan for identification) and voting from home. He said that local Leagues can help with voter registration and working at the polls.

Each local League gave a brief report on what is happening with their chapter. Some novel ideas were presented by local Leagues, including Leslie Carrier on the SW League’s use of “Candidating” for an election forum; working with the media, by Carol Schreiber from Columbia-Boone County; and reaching out to your community outside your comfort zone, by Kathleen Farrell from St. Louis. All the attendees met in groups to discuss the issues that they believe are important as legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

A boatload of thanks go to the planning committee, including Elaine Blodgett, Mary Merritt, Kathleen Farrell, and Janie Riley; to the Sedalia League for making all the arrangements; to Debby Howard and LWVMO office staff. Thanks to all the presenters for sharing their expertise. The silent auction raised more than \$400, thanks to the generosity of the contributions of items to sell and to those who won them. Mary Merritt introduced the “pig” fundraiser (details, p. 7). All in all, a great day! (Also see Note of Thanks from Janie Riley on page 5).

—Marilyn McLeod

## Local League News

### ***LWV of Moberly-Randolph County***

Moberly-Randolph County LWV members are busy as usual, keeping tabs on the boards and commissions, elected and appointed in our county. With several new members we have been able to "up the ante" and have added several to our list.

Members are observing meetings and perusing minutes of the Randolph County Commission, Moberly City Council, Moberly School Board, Moberly Area Community College, Moberly Planning and Zoning, Moberly Tourism Advisory Commission, Randolph County Ambulance District, Moberly Historic Preservation Commission, Little Dixie Library Board, Senate Bill 40 Board, ICAN MO, and Sheltered Industries (3 entities that overlap), the Randolph County Health Department Board, Moberly Parks and Recreation, Moberly Housing Authority Board, and the Moberly Special Road District Board.

We will soon expand into monitoring the Randolph County Fire District Boards and the city boards for several of our smaller towns in the county. After our more "laid back" December dinner meeting, we will be gearing up for consensus in January along with training for voter registration activities to get ready for the presidential primaries.

—Nancy Copenhaver

### ***LWV of Southwest Missouri***

After a successful completion of the Constitutional Amendment study, it's time to turn our attention to movies and parties! We arranged a private screening of the movie *Suffragette* for Saturday, December 5 at The Moxie, an independent movie theater in Springfield. We have had such a fabulous response that we've had to reserve two theaters for the screening. Many of those planning to attend are not League members, but found out about it via Facebook posts and invitations from League friends. Several board members dressed as suffragists, complete with "Votes for Women" sashes, to greet the movie attendees that day! We hope this turns into a wonderful membership opportunity! Our annual Holiday Party will be in early December and is a favored event for all League members to visit and catch up with one another. We have invited a suffragette performer to give a short presentation during the party, which will be a perfect tie-in to the *Suffragette* movie.

Our Ozarks Mental Health Network is up and running with a strong core of dedicated participants. The members are setting goals and lining up speakers for future meetings. It has been very encouraging to have such a positive response from the community and mental health providers. Our League is the facilitator at this time, but will hand off the leadership in the future to ensure the network becomes a community effort.

Our League, along with the Greene County Clerk's Office and the MSU Center for Community Engagement, applied for a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Our portion of the grant asks for \$5000 to double the number of Voters' Guides from 10,000 to 20,000 for the November 2016 election. Grant recipients will be notified in January.

—Leslie Carrier

## THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!!

Those attending the Fall Conference were AWESOME!!! The silent auction was a great success and brought in over \$450. Thank you to everyone who donated items, we definitely had more than we expected!! The Fall Conference Committee really appreciates those who bid on the items and all monies collected have been placed in the LWVMO coffers. A special thank you to those that “rounded up” to the next even dollar amount on items they won. And a really “BIG” special thank you to a great lady from Columbia who contributed \$20 even though she did not win anything she bid on!!!! Thank you Joanie!!!

On a side note, well maybe not such a side note, I have the great honor of being on the LWVMO Board and a bigger honor of being the Membership Chair for LWVMO. I have had the opportunity to talk (and become friends with) many of the local membership chairs. Please contact me if we haven't yet connected. My cell number is 660-998-0869 and my email address is [jlri-ley@artsappliance.com](mailto:jlri-ley@artsappliance.com). And if any other League member would like to just call and chit chat, I'm fine with that!!!

Membership is so important to any organization to exist and thrive, and I feel League of Women Voters is one of the best organizations to be a part of. I hope with the help of local Membership chairs, that we will be able to grow our membership for LWVMO. But it will take all of us working together, sharing ideas, and just “communicating” with each other to make our membership grow.

Yours in League,  
—Janie Riley, Membership Chair  
And Fall Conference Committee



## Exploring Cuba with the League

Cuba is a fascinating place, especially when seen through the lens of the League of Women Voters. Two Southwest Missouri League members, Ann Elwell and Kay Murnan, traveled to Cuba in October as part of a Sisters Across the Straits delegation of the state League of Florida. Led by LWVF board member and former Florida state representative Annie Betancourt, the group went beyond typical tourist travel.

Dialogues with faculty from the University of Havana, visits with local artists at a collective founded by Che Guevara and a lively discussion with leaders of a United Nations association focused on women made the six day trip a unique experience. Cuba's rapidly changing place on the world stage was part of every discussion. The group also explored Cuba's culture through visits to a number of local sites.

The Florida League is now scheduling trips to Cuba for 2016. Visit [www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org) for information.

—Ann Elwell, LWV of SW Missouri,  
[aelwell@classicnet.net](mailto:aelwell@classicnet.net)

## Letter from the President (continued from page 1)

To close out this year, here's an excerpt from SW Missouri LWV newsletter that sums up League: "During her years at the Library, Lorraine became acquainted with the League. She was impressed with the nonpartisan and intelligent methods used to present important issues to the public and just couldn't resist joining in on the fun. She is now an active new member. Welcome to the League, Lorraine!"

Keep up the fine work, and enjoy the season.

—Elaine Blodgett

## Suffrage Memorial

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) agreed to become a partner with the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA) in creating a memorial that celebrates the fight for women's suffrage and its relevance today. This decision is particularly timely in light of the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2020.

Since our last issue of the Voter, **our Missouri State League raised \$1000 in order to have our (collective) name on the memorial. Contributions for the Memorial were received as follows:**

—Memorials in honor of Maydell Senn designated for the Suffragist Memorial from Nancy Copenhaver, Carol Schreiber, Marilyn McLeod, Peggy Placier and LWV of Columbia-Boone County.

—Contributions for the Suffragist Memorial from LWV Sedalia-Pettis County, Janie Riley, Julie Behrens, Elaine Blodgett, LWV KC/JCP Counties, Barbara Davis, Linda Ahmann, LWV of Southwest MO and LWV of Metro St. Louis.

—Memorial contributions in honor of Maydell Senn designated for Suffragist Memorial paid to LWV Columbia-Boone County from Marjorie Pinkerton, Carol Schreiber, David Leuthold, Liz Schmidt, Joni O'Connor, and Shirley Troth. Check sent to LWVMO.

## *Other Contributions Recently Received*

—Contributions to LWVMO from Theron Bilheimer and Marty Ott.

—Contributions from Elizabeth Peters, Ruth Miledge and Joan & Stephen Mudrick to LWMO Ed Fund designated for LWV Columbia-Boone County Ed Fund.

—Contributions from Dixie Brown, Linda Smith, and Anitra Steele to LWVMO ED Fund designated for LWV KC/JCP Counties.

*Thanks to all for your generous contributions!*

**Officers**

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**Secretary:** Peg Prendergast  
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**Marty Ott:** Legislative Action

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**Anna Mennerick**



Hello, League Members:

Let me introduce myself – I’m Peggy Piggy. My mother, Ima Hogg, has been a member of the League of Women Voters since she was a young woman just out of college. All my life I’ve heard about the League and its activities – meetings, parades, forums, conferences and the list goes on.

One recurring topic has been fund raising – getting the money to carry out the projects that are so dear to the heart of League members. Hearing Mom talking about the 2016 elections and all that needs to be done, I thought to myself “what can I do to help?”

Money is always needed at both the local and state levels, so here’s my plan:

You take this little piggy bank home and from time to time put some loose change in it. Your local president has the banks – if she needs more they are available at the LWVMO office.

Then, at State Council in April everybody bring their (hopefully fat) little banks to be counted.

The money raised will be split 50-50 between the local League and the state League.

Now, isn’t that easy? And you will be helping your League and the state League to fund projects that so far have been “if only we had the money we could . . .”. Just a little from a lot of people will help make the League’s voice heard.

*Peggy*

PS – my friend Mary in Sedalia told me she eats lunch out most days, so she is going to put the change back from paying for lunch into her bank – some days it probably won’t be much, maybe only a dime but other days it could be nearly a dollar. **Remember – small change leads to big changes.**

**Fact Checking**

**Want to check the accuracy of allegations or emails? Go to ...**

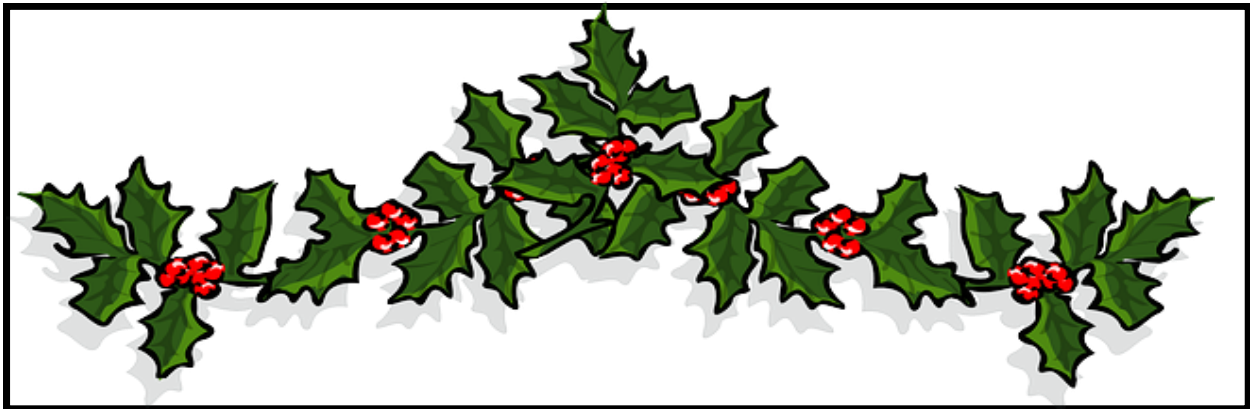
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