

## Making Democracy Work : Fall Planning Conference



The September 28 Making Democracy Work Planning workshop in Columbia gave 30 attendees an overview of fundraising, using media, the advocacy process, legislative priorities, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The morning was devoted to fundraising, with Amy Hjerstedt from LWVUS sharing valuable information on how to build a relationship with a big donor as well as asking for smaller contributions or someone’s time. She went through the four-stage process of identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship.

Hjerstedt stressed that fundraisers should focus on the League’s work. “People give **through** the League, not **to** the League, to do something inspiring.” She stressed that the League needs to be seen as relevant. “We are the largest grassroots organization registering voters and working on voter rights.”

President Evelyn Maddox recently appointed a committee to work on fundraising for LWVMO and wants each local League to develop a fundraising plan before the Nov. 2 meeting in Sedalia.

Jean Dugan conducted a short media training to prepare attendees for print, radio or TV interviews to get key messages to a larger audience. “Take a few minutes to think about what information you want to stress. If you can, write down up to three talking points.” She gave examples of “bridging and blocking” to include a key message in each response.

Metro St. Louis Co-President Nancy Miller explained the difference between lobbying and advocating. She suggested that League members stay away from telling legislators how to vote and focus on sharing the League position on an issue.



Amy Hjerstedt

*(Continued on Page 2)*



## Message from the President

Thanks to all those who attended the *Making Democracy Work Planning Conference* on September 28 and to those who developed a very productive agenda. Those who weren't able to attend can be assured that the time was well spent by the representatives from your league. Special guests Amy Hjerstedt from LWVUS, and Cecilia Belser-Patton, Missouri State Organizer for Jobs with Justice, shared their special knowledge about Fundraising and DEI while our own Nancy Miller, Louise Wilkerson, Jean Dugan, Marilyn McLeod, Nancy Copenhaver, and Carol Schreiber contributed their skills on LWV Advocacy, Diversity in the League, Media Interviewing and Legislative Tracking. The Columbia-Boone County League handled site arrangements which were both attractive and functional.

The day was a step forward for our work on 2020 elections and the League's transformation. We are committed to the People Power Fair Maps Campaign that the LWVUS just launched to combat gerrymandering in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We also have a commitment to carry out a pledge for grassroots work in Missouri to advance *Making Democracy Work*. The training provided on September 28 is also a step forward on our transformation to the League of the future. It will be a League that is culturally relevant in our diverse society and is able to sustain its funding for the work we have to do. It will be a League that is ever more able to provide our traditional Voter Services, Voter Protection, and Get Out the Vote programs.

Don't miss the *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy* on Page 3 of this issue that was adopted by the LWVMO Board on September 27. It's our state's commitment to incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our league programming and league governance.

The extraordinary efforts of our local league leadership and membership have been *Making Democracy Work* for 100 years. There is no doubt that LWV leagues will continue to be a major contributor to keeping democracy safe in Missouri for another 100 years and beyond.

### Planning Conference (continued from page 1)

Cecilia Belser-Patton from Jobs with Justice participated in a panel with LWVMO secretary Louise Wilkerson and president Evelyn Maddox. They discussed intentional relationship building and welcoming all voices to the League, including persons of color, youth, men, LGBTQIA and low-income women.

"We can learn to move forward in ways that are inclusive...and engage people in ways that we haven't before," Belser-Patton said. She stressed the need to educate Missouri voters on the issues and then get them to vote based on their self-interest and shared values rather than political party.

LWVMO is using a \$25,000 grant from LWVUS to build the capacity of local Leagues and to advance the League's policy goals, including voter protection, democracy and election reform.



Photo: **Cecilia Belser-Patton and Louise Wilkerson**



## **LWVMO Fall Conference**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

**State Fair Community College  
Heckart Health and Science Building  
Sedalia**

**Registration – 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

- ◆ **Climate Change in the World, US, MO and What You Can Do Today**
- ◆ **Overview of Climate Change**
- ◆ **The Most Impactful Action Making Democracy Work**
- ◆ **LWVMO 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch and Celebration**
- ◆ **Local League Sharing Ideas**
- ◆ **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
- ◆ **2020 Legislative Session Advocacy Training**

**Registration fee is \$25.**

**Individuals can register online at [lwvmissouri.org](http://lwvmissouri.org). Local Leagues can send a list of their attendees with their check to LWVMO at this address: League of Women Voters of Missouri, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144**

**The deadline for registration is October 25.**

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: a League Priority**

The LWVMO Board of Directors adopted the following DEI policy at its September 27 meeting:

*The League of Women Voters of Missouri is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.*

*There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.*

### **Guide to State Action**

Here is a link to the Missouri "Guide to State Action"

<https://lwvmo.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/guide-to-state-action-4-9-2019.pdf>

### **Impact on Issues**

**The 2018-2020 Impact on Issues** from LWVUS can now be purchased from Amazon for \$5.95 plus shipping (no shipping charge on Amazon Prime), or downloaded free from LWVUS. It is also available on Kindle on Amazon.

## Petitions Circulating on Medicaid Expansion

- ◆ The League supports Medicaid expansion and is gathering signatures for an initiated petition. To get on the November 2020 ballot, 172,000 signatures are needed.
- ◆ The proposed Constitutional amendment is projected to bring insurance coverage to more than 215,000 Missourians. More than 90,000 children and 23,000 adults lost their coverage in the past year.
- ◆ The petition gives voters the chance to expand Medicaid eligibility to individuals making under \$17,000 per year or couples earning less than \$23,000 per year.
- ◆ This proposal creates thousands of new jobs. It is expected to generate nearly \$2 billion dollars per year in economic activity
- ◆ Medicaid expansion will support critical health care infrastructure in rural Missouri. Five rural hospitals in the state have closed.

### Bringing tax dollars home

- ◆ By not having expanded Medicaid, the state legislature rejected more than \$1.5 billion dollars a year in federal tax dollars.
- ◆ The 36 other states that expanded Medicaid are benefiting from increased federal spending in their communities.
- ◆ Missouri's share would be \$130 million, with a 90% federal match rather than the current 65%. Washington University research concluded the increase would be offset by cost savings.
- ◆ Missouri HealthNet, the state's Medicaid program, covers only disabled people, pregnant women, children and some seniors.
- ◆ Medicaid expansion will help our hospitals stay open and our families get the care they need.

If you or your local League want to participate in the petition drive for Medicaid Expansion, contact Missouri Health Care for All at [Adele@mohealthcareforall.org](mailto:Adele@mohealthcareforall.org) or call 877-383-8884.

## LWVMO Legislative Priorities

After careful study, the League of Women Voters of Missouri set the following priorities for 2019-20.

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ★ Election Reform to Make Democracy Work<br>(Protect Amendment 1, Fight Voter Sup-<br>pression and Make Voting Easier) | ★ Education (Pre-K through college) |
| ★ Medicaid Expansion   | ★ Gun Safety                        |
| ★ Climate Change   | ★ Reproductive Rights               |
| ★ Environmental Protection   | ★ Equal Rights Amendment            |
|  | ★ National Popular Vote             |



## Missouri Voter ID Lawsuit

LWVMO President Evelyn Maddox testified in Jefferson City on August 20 that Missouri voters are still confused about what identification they need to present at the polls despite extensive education efforts by League volunteers. The lawsuit challenges the Secretary of State's implementation of the photo ID law. Plaintiffs in the case are the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP, LWV of Missouri, and Christine Dragonette who oversees an ID acquisition program at St. Francis Xavier College Church. Cole County Circuit Court Judge Jon Beetem is expected to rule on the case later this fall.

*Maddox is pictured with Advancement Project lawyers Denise Lieberman and Sabrina Khan, Gillian Wilcox from the ACLU, Executive Director Jean Dugan, and Metro St. Louis officers Nancy Miller and Nancy Price. The group was in Jefferson City for the trial.*

Maddox said both voters and poll workers are confused by recent changes to voter ID requirements. Missouri's voter ID law went into effect in 2017, following passage of a 2016 voter referendum

(Amendment 6) that allow the state to require a photo ID to vote. In October 2018, a judge said in a case brought by Priorities USA that Missouri voters do not need to show a state-issued photo ID or sign an affidavit swearing their information is correct. That case is now before the Missouri Supreme Court.

## National Popular Vote Compact

The NPV committee is gearing up to get the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact introduced in the Missouri legislature. The Compact will enable the US to elect a president who wins the most votes nationwide. Now, we have a state-based system where the candidate who loses the election in each state has his/her vote added to the votes of the winner of that state's election. Winner takes all, virtually nullifying the loser's votes. The winner in the state gets all that state's electoral votes.

The League believes this is unfair and undemocratic and that the president should be elected based on the candidate who gets the most individual votes nationwide, where every vote is equal. The Compact will do that once it receives a majority of the electoral votes nationwide. Interest is spreading around the country. Once the Compact receives 270 votes, the president will be elected by direct popular vote nationally. At present, there are 196 electoral votes toward the goal. We hope we can add Missouri's ten electoral votes to it.

— Sydell Shayer, chair, NPV Committee

## Voter ID Law Upheld in North Dakota Affecting Tribal Members

On August 9, North Dakota 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a law requiring voters to have photo identifications that show a residential address. North Dakota is the only state that won't accept mailing addresses. Most tribal members must use a Post Office Box, since the postal service does not provide residential delivery. The initial lawsuit, filed in 2016, cited violation of the Voting Rights Act.

A federal district court issued two injunctions, in 2016 and 2018, blocking this requirement, but a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals has sided with the state in overturning that ruling. This will disenfranchise about 12 percent of the state's population. The appeals court ruled only on equal protection claims under the U.S. Constitution. The claims made under the state Constitution and Voting rights Act are still alive.

## LOCAL LEAGUE REPORTS

### LWV of Moberly

The Moberly LWV celebrated 100 years of voting equality with a special event on September 9 at the Municipal Conference Room with an event featuring guest speaker Angie Dunlap (from the St. Louis LWV) about the history of women's right to vote. A front page article in the local newspaper, the *Moberly Monitor-Index* quoted Angie: "Understanding the history inspires what we can do now. I think it's important that we remember our past and say these women did this enormous thing... but it's not nearly what they endured. I have to keep trying at this, I can't give up on this because look what they did. When you see past successes you don't feel so defeated." Barb Riley, president of the Moberly LWV, described her own experience as the first female in law enforcement in the county and how things have changed over the years as there are many women now in the field. Riley was quoted in the newspaper about the problem of low voter turnout and that "indifference among voters is an increasing problem".

### LWV-Southwest Missouri (Greene, Christian, Webster Counties)

Website: [www.lwvswmo.org](http://www.lwvswmo.org)

September brought centennial celebrations, new members, community partnerships to accomplish shared goals, and voter registration opportunities. The Meador Center for Politics and Citizenship, Drury U., hosted a presentation by Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour*, and a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Katie Gilbert, LWVSW.

The fall Naturalization Ceremony added 82 citizens to our area, with 12 League volunteers registering them to vote. We held or will hold voter registration for National Voter Registration Day, the Me Too Rally, Westside Betterment Association, Climate Change Strike, Ozarks Technical College, and Soak Up Springfield. We gave a "Voting from the Comfort of Your Home" presentation at a residential care center, Voting Matters Simulation and education to Missouri State students, and registrar training for the Tri-Lakes Unit. League members celebrated graduations at Rehabilitation Courts, providing graduates with information on getting registered and voting. This program gives a second chance for many young men and women.

We gave a presentation to the Kimberling City Library group about League history and mission. Audience members participated in the Voting Matters Simulation. We often use this simulation, which illustrates the importance of voting. The Kansas City League shared this simulation with us, and it's a great example of Leagues helping one another grow. Kimberling area residents were excited to learn of the new League forming in their area, as the Tri-Lakes area includes Stone County. Some hope to become League members.

We are holding fewer committee meetings, with tasks being assigned to Action Teams. Our members are meeting less and doing more!

— Joan Gentry & Marge Bramer

### 2020 LWV CALENDARS

The 2020 LWV Calendars are in and ready to be shipped out. Order yours today!

We are pleased to say that last year's prices are still in effect (\$7 each with \$3 shipping), and local Leagues can order in bulk to distribute among members and friends.

To order, contact: **League of Women Voters of Missouri, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144**

Call 314-961-6869 or Email [league@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:league@lwvmissouri.org) with questions. Please include your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address



# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MISSOURI

## Officers

**President:** Evelyn Maddox (Kansas City/  
Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties)

**Vice President:** Marilyn McLeod (Columbia)

**Secretary:** Louise Wilkerson (St. Louis)

**Treasurer:** Cindy Wunderlich (St. Louis)

## Directors

Kathleen Boswell (Sedalia)

Marge Bramer (Springfield)

Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly)

Joan Gentry (Southwest)

Nancy Miller (St. Louis)

Carol Schreiber (Columbia)

Sharon Swon (Mexico)

## Nominating Committee

Pauline Testerman (Kansas City)

Elaine Blodgett (Columbia)

Lorraine Sandstrom (Southwest)

**Executive Director:** Jean Dugan

**Office Assistant:** Chantal Hoffsten

**Historian:** Linda McDaniel

**Parliamentarian:** Debby Howard

**LWVUS Board Liaison:** Karen Nicholson

## CALENDAR

### 2019

**October 16-18: Centennial of Missouri League of Women Voters**

**October 29: Columbia - “Bonded Justice, Race, Class, Gender, and Suffrage”** Columbia Public Library, 100 W. Broadway, 7:00 p.m.

**November 1: LWVMO Board Meeting, Sedalia**

**November 2: Fall LWVMO Workshop - Sedalia - With a focus on Climate Change. State Fair Community College.**

**November 13: Centennial of St. Louis League, Gala banquet at the Sheldon Concert Hall, 6-8:30 pm. Tickets at [lwvstl.org/events](http://lwvstl.org/events).**

**December 7: Centennial Celebration of the Columbia LWV, Broadway Christian Church**

**December 11: Centennial of Founding of Columbia League**

### 2020

**February 14: The national League of Women Voters was formally organized in Chicago.**

**Deadline for articles for the next issue of the *Missouri Voter*:** November 20, 2019

Send articles to: [Marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:Marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)

## FUNDRAISING TRAINING

LWVUS has developed training modules designed for League leaders to grow capacity and impact through effective fundraising. Please take time to watch these online modules: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/fundraising/fundraising-training-modules>



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



## **LWVMO Fall Conference**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

**State Fair Community College  
Heckart Health and Science Building  
*Sedalia***

*(Details on page 3)*