



# Missouri Voter

Volume 78, Issue 6

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

November/December 2017



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems like things never really slow down. We promise ourselves that “after this next big event, things will calm down and I can get to other pressing needs.” But there is always another big event demanding our attention, and now we are into the holidays and it is even more frantic.

The Fall Conference in Sedalia was great, but already a month has passed and we are on to thinking about the start of the new legislative year, our priorities, and first day of filing in Jefferson City. The state board will be meeting in Jeff City on Wednesday, January 17, and hopefully we can meet with some of our elected officials as part of our day. If any members want to ride along with the board member from their city, they are most welcome. There will be plenty to see in the Capitol, especially if they have never toured it before or if it has been years, or they can sit in on the board meeting.

The **First Day of Filing** for the House and Senate seats and statewide offices will be Tuesday, February 27, and we are starting on the process of our traditional opening day meet & greet snack table. In the past, our League members have brought baked goodies and coffee and had the table set up at the Secretary of State’s office where we are in plain sight. It is always fun to visit with hopeful candidates in a friendly, non-threatening way, and it really gets our name out there. Members also have fun getting to know each other better, and then we have a good excuse to have lunch together before we leave town. If you feel like you want to join the fun, let me know and then show up on February 27.

The board is also working on plans for the **LWVUS Convention** in Chicago in June. We really want local members to have the chance to see what goes on at the national level, and since it isn’t too far away, members can carpool or take the train. We had a great event for the 75<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, which included a large crew riding the train together, and I would love to see that happen again. Stay posted for more details as they are set, but keep June 28 to July 1 open on your calendar.

(continued on page 2)



**REGISTER  
TO VOTE!**



## Automatic Voter Registration Act (Proposed)

*From LWVUS:*

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017 on June 14, 2017. The League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country.

The League is a leader in voter registration efforts across the country. Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information.

**The League fully supports this bill and urges all members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to support this important legislation.**

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

We are getting into my favorite time of the year (which may have something to do with the fact that my birthday is 12/25!) and my hope for all of you is that you are able to slow it down and enjoy your time with family and friends for whatever holiday it is that you are celebrating.

The work we do with the League is important, but it shouldn't consume us to the point that we don't take time for ourselves and those we love. Happy memories are the best gift we can give anyone, including ourselves. Go ring a bell, buy a gift to donate, or set a place at your table for a stranger, and have a blessed beginning to a new year.

Peace to all,

Kathleen

## Report from Fall Conference

The LWVMO held its annual Fall Conference in Sedalia on Saturday, October 28, 2017 with a great turnout of members from around the state, including many new members.

It was a full day with speakers and opportunities to network and see the many LWV logo items available for purchase. Mary Merritt (Sedalia) shared ideas for new items to celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the LWV (and women's right to vote).

Sean Nicholson gave an excellent overview of the CLEAN MO ballot petition that is currently in process. "Missouri's democracy isn't working like it should" is the main impetus behind this initiative. It would affect the state legislature where big donors have the advantage and half of the statewide races had just a single major party candidate due to gerrymandering of the districts. Some of aspects of the petition include strong donation limits, stopping of lobbying gifts, ending the "revolving door" from legislator to lobbyist, no unfair advantages in redistricting. The state LWV has endorsed this organization, so some members are circulating petitions to get it on the ballot.

Nick LaStrada, Pettis County Clerk, who has spoken to the group before was invited back to share his thoughts on the new voter ID implementation. One problem he noted was that people think that they have to get an ID from the County Clerk. Provisional ballots used to be allowed only in federal elections, but now can be used for all elections in Missouri. One audience question raised the issue that their local polling place in another part of the state didn't handle the provisional ballot correctly. That and some other questions showed that more training needs to be done at the local level around the state. There are issues related to the Dept. of Revenue license bureaus (DMV) also. The MO Association of county Clerks is attempting to ameliorate that situation.

Linda McDaniel gave an update about the Voter Protection Coalition and the lawsuit filed against the Secretary of State about the Voter ID law: the funds appropriated are not sufficient to cover the costs. Not all DMV's are following the law. They should be offering to get people registered to vote when they get their driver's license.

Nancy Miller, co-president of the St. Louis Metro LWV, gave a presentation on providing a Speakers Bureau "from start to finish". Their website has a link where organizations can "Request a speaker". They provide training of their members who are interested in being speakers, and they have prepared several PowerPoint presentations on various subjects. Nancy gave a thumb drive with the presentations to each local LWV League to use in their area and encouraged all to provide a speakers bureau. (Note: here is a link to their speakers bureau section on their website: <http://www.lwvstl.org/speakers.html>).

Anne Anderson of the D.C. LWV made a special trip to Missouri to talk about the possible statehood for the District of Columbia. She gave a compelling argument that the people who live in the area have no representation in Congress, yet their local laws can be overturned by Congress. Two Bills—HR 1291 and SB 1278 —both filed earlier this year — are seeking statehood for these citizens.

Finally, Evelyn Maddox of KC LWV, announced the exciting news about the Spring Conference to be held May 5, 2018 in Kansas City. *Mark Your Calendars!*

### LWVMO BOARD MEMBERS WORK FOR COMMUNITY

The LWVMO Board met in Sedalia on October 27. Kathleen Boswell, president, arranged for board Members to prepare and serve supper to patrons of a local community center, the day prior to Fall Conference.

Board members are shown having a good time preparing chili, salad, and dessert for 55 Sedalia residents of all ages. As shown below, Kathleen was “on the run” all the time to keep things moving!

Board members returned to their business meeting after leaving the Center’s facilities spotless. *(Thanks to the Kansas City LWV for the photos and article.)*



Sharon Swon  
Mexico LWV



Kathleen Boswell,  
Sedalia LWV



Carol Schreiber,  
Columbia LWV



Becky Clausen  
St. Louis Metro LWV



Linda Smith, KC LWV  
Marge Bramer, SWMO LWV



Kathleen Boswell, Sedalia  
Marilyn McLeod,  
Columbia, LWV

## ***Local League Reports***

### ***LWV of KC/Jackson, Clay, Cass and Platte Counties***

<http://www.lwvkc.org/>

Approximately 200 people attended a standing room only forum on October 25 at John Knox Village for District 8 candidates, Mike Cierpiot (R), Hillary Shields (D), and Jacob Turk (I). The forum, moderated by Brian Ellison of KCUR, was recorded in its entirety and played on Ellison's *State House Blend Podcast*. An excerpt was used on Steve Kraske's *UP to Date* on KCUR. Channel 9 was there and recorded the entire forum.

The League was contacted by KCUR with a request to co-sponsor it, have Brian Ellison moderate it and record it for broadcast. Negotiations ensued to ensure that the forum would be conducted in accordance with the League's process and that the League's standards would be adhered to. This collaboration resulted in the League's name being mentioned on KCUR each time the forum was promoted which was frequently during the period prior to the forum. As a result of this successful collaboration, we have established a relationship with KCUR that may result in further co-sponsorships in the busy 2018 election season.

#### ***LWV Registration Event***

High School Seniors at St. Teresa Academy were excited to register to vote after hearing an LWV presentation during the monthly "seniors" meeting on campus Nov. 10th. Alison Arendt, a new member this year, gave a PowerPoint presentation emphasizing how US women have held the franchise for less than 100 years and things we take for granted (like having credit) required laws being changed less than 50 years ago. She also emphasized that 'news' everywhere, particularly on social media, should be double-checked for accuracy so that a vote reflects opinion based on facts. Seniors who were at least 17 1/2 then lined up enthusiastically and registered to vote; those who are 18 by the April 3 municipal election can participate.

### ***LWV League of Women Voters of Southeast Missouri***

<http://www.lwvsemo.org>

The LWV of SE MO and Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce and Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce will present A Town Hall Meeting with Local Officials from Southeast Missouri, Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Cape Girardeau Public Library.

Scheduled to speak and answer questions: Dwain Hahs, Mayor, City of Jackson; Donna Lichtenegger, State Representative, District 146; Harry Rediger, Mayor, City of Cape Girardeau; Kathryn Swan, State Representative, District 147; Clint Tracy, Presiding Commissioner, County of Cape Girardeau; and Wayne Wallingford, State Senator, District 27. This will be an opportunity to hear updates about the community and ask questions of local officials.

—Jill Rickard

## ***Local League Reports*** (Continued from page 5)

***LWV of Southwest Missouri***  
<http://www.lwvswmo.org/>

Members of League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri surveyed voters at 8 different precincts in Springfield, MO during the Nov 7th election regarding their Photo ID experience at check in. Joan Gentry coordinated the surveys, including having at least two Missouri State University students participate in the surveys with a League member at each precinct. She compiled the results and reported them to Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller and the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. A total of **231** responses were gathered. Based on the results, Joan made two recommendations to Shane Schoeller:

1. To encourage voter participation in our elections, it is important to continue providing and improving the Voter ID information campaign through increased visibility in social media, print media, television, radio and community activities.
2. To encourage participation in our elections, attention must be paid to the non-driver voter and the role the DMV plays in issuing these IDs. Efforts must be made to ensure that the DMV is doing what is necessary to provide these ID's in a timely fashion.

—Kelly Wood and Lorraine Sandstrom  
Co-presidents

### **Recent Contributions Received**

*Contributions from members and friends are always welcome!*

We recently received a contribution from a former member for \$75.

We also received a donation to the LWV-Columbia/Boone County Ed Fund of \$35.

You can send a donation to: LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144.

**It will be greatly appreciated!**

### **First Day of Filing**

House, Senate, Statewide Offices  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018

The LWVMO will have a table at the Secretary of State building to greet candidates. If you are interested in participating, contact Kathleen Boswell, at [league@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:league@lwvmissouri.org).

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

Marge Bramer (SWMO)

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

Voter Protection Coalition Liaison:

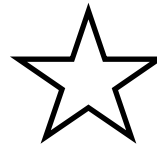
Linda McDaniel

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

**CALENDAR****2018**January 17 —LWVMO Board meeting -  
Jefferson CityMarch 16 —LWVMO Board meeting -  
Columbia

May 4—LWVMO Board meeting

May 5—LWVMO Spring Conference  
Kansas CityJune 28-July 1—2018—LWVUS  
Chicago**“Like” us on Facebook!**<https://www.facebook.com/lwvmo/>**2018 LWV Calendars are still available!**1-9 Calendars—\$7.00 each plus S&H  
10-99 Calendars—\$6.00 each plus S&H

You can order from LWVMO:

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

Questions? Call 314-961-6869 or email

[league@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:league@lwvmissouri.org). Please include your name, address, telephone number and email.

You can order directly from the LWVMO website at this link:

<https://lwvmissouri.org/shop-2/calendars/>



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8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104  
St. Louis MO 63144-2733

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*Happy Holidays!*



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