



Missouri Voter

Volume 77, Issue 5

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

September/October 2016

League of Women Voters of Missouri Fall Conference

Saturday, November 12, 2016
9:00 a.m. (registration) to 3:00 p.m.
State Fair Community College
Heckart Science Auditorium
3201 W. 16th, Sedalia

Join us for our annual fall workshops in Sedalia. We will explore a variety of topics, including:

- ◆ Immigration
- ◆ The future of journalism
- ◆ Clean water issues
- ◆ and, of course, an Overview of the Election

The registration fee, which includes breaks, lunch and information packet is \$15. Registration deadline is November 4 (but you can pay at the door).

Hotel Accommodations—Sedalia

If you want to come to Sedalia on Friday, there is a block of rooms being held at the Comfort Inn Sedalia Station, 3600 West Broadway (Highway 50), Sedalia, MO 65301. Call 660-829-5959.

Room rate is \$82 + tax – single or double (2 queen)

This rate is available until October 16 – so make your reservation now – you can always cancel.

CALENDAR 2016

- Election Day— November 8
- November 11- LWVMO Board- Sedalia
- November 12- Fall Conference- Sedalia

2017

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

LWVMO Fall Conference Registration Form **November 12, 2016 - - Sedalia, Missouri**

Local League _____

Names of Persons attending:

Registration fee is \$15 per person. Reservation required by November 4!

Amount enclosed: _____

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

President's Message



Dear LWV Members,

" Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid their party"or country?

National elections are just a month away now, and then..... the voting will be over, along with the TV ads. Then comes the hard work of getting down to the business of serving the people and governing. Many of us have been glued to national debates, a few to the state, but everyone is curious as to who will become the next president and Missourians are wondering who will be the next governor.

As a country, we're very unsettled. People are concerned for their safety and the future. In the last two years especially, we have heard about police shootings of unarmed citizens, concerns about public safety, equality for everyone in everything, everyday, the ability to earn a decent living, how taxes are being spent and if our democracy as we've know it, will survive. On the other hand, people are speaking up about the issues, and many marches have been held in cities across he US.

Democracy marches on.

In the meantime, League has to make sure voters have registered, and that voters can get to the polls and that they clearly understand the issues. Do they understand voting itself? Who they vote for is up to them. How they vote on local and state wide issues is more difficult. That's why we must make sure that information about ballot issues is available and out there. That candidate and issues meetings are held.

And when it's all over, it would be great if all of us could work together in solving common issues that affect our cities, counties and state. That means encouraging members of the community to engage in discussions on issues which concern them and introduce them to their state representatives at local city and county meetings.

OUR JOB: KNOW THE ISSUES- EXPLAIN THE ISSUES- ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO VOTE. THEN.....HELP CITIZENS TO BE ACTIVE IN ISSUES.

—Elaine Blodgett



Photo Voter I.D. Up to the Voters

It was a very bad day for the League's priorities on September 14th, the veto over-ride session in the Missouri Legislature. Not only did legislators overrule law enforcement officials across the state to allow the carrying of concealed weapons without permits, it overrode Governor Nixon's veto of HB1631, which would require a non-expired state issued photo ID to vote. Now it is up to voters to reject Amendment 6 to the Missouri Constitution in order to keep this voter suppression legislation from becoming law in our state.

The Missouri League of Women Voters has made defeating Amendment 6 its top priority for the November 8th election. It is part of a state wide coalition of civil rights organizations working to preserve the Missouri Constitution's protection of the right to vote and prevent the disenfranchisement of approximately 230,000 citizens in our state: seniors, students, women, the poor, people of color, and those with disabilities. Recent problems with absentee ballots in St. Louis have added to the general confusion about the issue. But the important facts are absolutely clear:

There is no evidence that voter fraud at the polls exists in Missouri.

The cost to Missouri taxpayers for a problem that doesn't exist is estimated to be over \$16 million over the next three years, money that could be much better spent on the state's needs.

Here's what we are doing:

- Distributing thousands of flyers and handouts to educate voters about Photo Voter ID
- Running radio ads across the state to present the facts about Amendment 6
- Giving as many presentations as we can to community groups about the issue
- Having as many one on one conversations with citizens to persuade them to reject this infringement on our right to vote.

LWV - Contributions Recently Received

LWVMO

In memory of Barb Davis from Linda McDaniel to LWVMO.

LWVMO ED FUND

Matching gift from Bank of America to LWVMO ED FUND.

In memory of Liz Schmidt from Win Colwill and Leigh Huesgen to LWVMO ED Fund (for LWV Columbia-Boone County).

Contributions are always welcome. To be tax-deductible make your check payable to LWV MO Education Fund. For non tax-deductible make your check payable to LWV MO.

Local League News

LWV of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties (LWVKC/J/C/P)

These months before the November General Election have us all busy. Eight League members from LWVKC/JCP Counties travelled to St. Louis and participated in the Golden Parade on Sept 3rd. We were proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters and thank St. Louis Metro for all their work on this successful event.

Voter Registration requests have increased. We are working with the Royals and will offer Voter Registration post cards during the last 6-game home stand at Royals stadium. The Plaza Library and NE Kansas City Library have requested help, especially for Nat'l Voter Registration Day. The IRS, Junior League and UMKC have also requested our time. We have a letter to editor in the KC Star that stresses the important dates of Sept 27th National Voter Registration Day, Oct. 12th last day to register to vote and Nov. 8th Election Day

We continue to believe that the "Right to vote is too precious, too fundamental, to be burdened or conditioned" as Justice William Douglas of the Supreme Court said in March of 1966. We are hard at work on the "Vote No" campaign on Amendment 6. We have had several speaking engagements and have several more scheduled. We are starting to staff a phone bank as of Sept. 26 in a networking link with CCO (Communities Creating Opportunities). The GKCWPC postcards have arrived and we are starting to get these out in the community.

In our ongoing effort to have informed educated voter go to the polls, our Voters' Guide will soon be sent off to the printer and 10,000 copies will be distributed. Plus the Guide will be available on our web site www.lwvkc.org. We appreciate the work the State Board is doing to assist us on this project and for Springfield's guidance.

We are working hard and enjoying more visibility as we follow in the footsteps of the other Leagues around the state.

—Donna Hoch & Linda Smith, co-presidents

The Sedalia-Pettis County League

Our League has joined forces with the *Sedalia Democrat* newspaper to produce a local Voters' Guide. State-wide candidates and ballot issue information will be used from the St. Louis publication, and Sedalia members will gather information from candidates in Pettis, Benton, Henry and Johnson Counties to complete the publication.

The Guide will be inserted in the *Sedalia Democrat* on Oct. 22 for delivery to all subscribers. Local members will also get a large quantity of extra copies to distribute to area schools, libraries and nursing homes in the four counties. As exciting as this news is, the best part is that there will be no cost to the local League. Because we are providing the information and taking the workload off of the newspaper staff, they are thanking us by giving us the extra copies. This is turning out to be a great partnership!

—Kathleen Boswell, co-president

(continued on page 6)



We Sure Did Celebrate the Vote on September 3rd

It was a great celebration, on a lovely cool Saturday in St. Louis. Several hundred people marched across Olive Street and filled the steps of the city's Central Library wearing gold and purple sashes declaring "Votes for Women."

Many commemorated the 1916 suffragists' Golden Lane by wearing period white outfits and carrying yellow umbrellas. State legislators Jill Schupp and Deb Lavender presented declarations from the State of Missouri and the Missouri Senate. Maggie Crane, Director of Communications, presented the City's proclamation. State Senator Jamila Nasheed brought the crowd to their feet and inspired us to work to protect voters' rights by defeating the Photo Voter I.D. Constitutional Amendment on November 8th.

Many organizations attended, marching in the parade under their own banners, talking with attendees at informational tables, and being donors to financially support the event. People met old friends and made new ones, enjoyed the music and food trucks, and remembered how important it is to exercise the right to vote.

Thank you to the League members from around the state who joined us and LWVMO and the Columbia-Boone County League who were financial sponsors.

—Kathleen Farrell

In Memoriam**Barbara Davis**

Barb Davis served as a member of the LWVMO board of directors and was the director for Health. She attended and testified for health issues at the legislature and kept us all well informed on health issues.

A graduate of Central Methodist University, she taught physical education for over 31 years for the Montgomery County RII School District. She was an active member of the Mexico League of Women Voters. She was also an active member of Montgomery RTA, MRTA, MSTA, the American Red Cross, Girl Scouts, and various hot air ballooning organizations.

Barb passed away on September 17, 2016. Memorials may be made to a variety of organizations, including the Mexico (MO) League of Women Voters.

Visitation will be held October 15 at the Mexico Elks Hall at 1 p.m. with a celebration of life service at 1:45 p.m.

In Memoriam**Liz Schmidt**

Liz Schmidt was a member of the LWV in Columbia for over 60 years. She held the corporate memory of the Columbia League (as well as of the community); her positive attitude and can-do spirit were infectious and an inspiration to the League, as well as many other organizations in the community.

She served on numerous government and community committees. Liz never looked for acclaim or elected office for herself. Her life was about service. How wonderful that she was recognized for her work and was the recipient of multiple awards for her efforts.

Liz passed away on September 2, 2016. Memorials may be made to a variety of organizations, including the LWV of Columbia-Boone County. There will be a memorial service on November 5 at 1:00 p.m. at the Missouri Methodist Church in Columbia.

Local League News (continued)***League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis***

We barely had a chance to catch our breaths after Celebrate the Vote before Election 2016 overwhelmed us. It is great to be asked to serve our community and we are hoping we can honor all requests. So far in September and October we are:

- Making over 40 presentations
- Registering voters in over 30 locations
- Getting the Voters Guide ready
- Answering scores of calls every day in the office about the election

On October 9th we will co-sponsor a Presidential Debate Watch Party with the Urban League at Harris-Stowe University. The debate is being held at Washington University, but of course almost no one we know can get a ticket. So, if you can't get into Wash U, come to Harris-Stowe and join the party.

—Kathleen Farrell

Officers

President: Elaine Blodgett
Vice President: Mary Merritt
Secretary: Peg Prendergast
Treasurer: Debby Waite Howard

Directors

Kathleen Boswell: Public Relations
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

Lael Von Holt, Chair
Lois Detrick
Sue Brockett

LWVUS Board Liaison:

Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach:
Donna Lauffer

Webmaster:
Rachel Brekhus

Joint Office Executive Director:
Anna Mennerick



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

**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
at St. Louis, Mo**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**League of Women Voters of Missouri
Fall Conference
Saturday, November 12, 2016
9:00 a.m. (registration) to 3:00 p.m.
State Fair Community College
Heckart Science Auditorium
3201 W. 16th, Sedalia**

Information and registration form and hotel information are on page one of this issue.

The Missouri VOTER is published bi-monthly at the League of Women Voters of Missouri (St. Louis)
Subscriptions are \$2 per year.

Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO USPS 593-960

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Missouri Voter, LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis,
MO 63144 All other correspondence to Elaine Blodgett at the same address.

Voice: 314-961-6869

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org