

Celebrating 100 Years of LWVMO



Pictured from left to right are LWVMO past presidents Kathleen Boswell, Mary Merritt, Debby Howard, Linda McDaniel, Elaine Blodgett, Sydell Shayer and current president Evelyn Maddox.

The League of Women Voters of Missouri held its annual fall Conference on November 2nd in Sedalia and celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a special presentation, cake and a booklet of its history. Former Presidents received a certificate recognizing them for their dedication and leadership.

Guest speakers shared information on the climate crisis and encouraged Leaguers to advocate for changes at the state and local level. Carolyn Amparan from the Climate Reality Project stressed the urgency of the climate crisis. While 97 percent of scientists believe humans are causing the climate to change, polls show almost half of Missouri voters deny that fact.



Carolyn Amparan

Impacts for the state include more days with temperatures above 95 degrees, weather catastrophes, and numerous health issues. “Renewable energy is cheaper now than other sources of conventional energy,” Amparan said. LWVCBC member Dick Parker advocated for ways to reduce harmful greenhouse gas production, from shuttering coal-powered plants to switching to electric cars with batteries powered by wind and solar energy. See page 6 for some suggested solutions.

At the conference, President Evelyn Maddox summarized expectations



Kathleen Boswell directs board members serving dinner at Sedalia’s Community Café.

for local Leagues under the Making Democracy Work and People Powered Fair Maps grants from LWVUS. She said those grants will help local Leagues become more technologically sufficient, more aware of the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion, and on the road to long-term financial sustainability.

Louise Wilkerson led an exercise on how local Leagues can overcome obstacles to diversity.



Advocacy Committee Chairs Nancy Copenhaver and Marilyn McLeod listen to Joan Hubbard’s update on her early voting committee’s work.

Message from the President



Although 2020 will be a very busy year for the League locally and nationally, this holiday season should be a time of respite for League members. May this holiday season be a time for rest, reflection, and enjoying time with family and friends.

We've worked diligently during this past year and achieved much, while also celebrating our 100th anniversary. We've celebrated the anniversary of the LWV of Missouri and those of local Leagues that were founded even before the LWVUS. We're preparing for major celebrations in 2020 of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, formation of the LWVUS, and the anniversaries of other Missouri Leagues. There will be a national celebration at the National Convention June 25-28 when state delegates and others gather in Washington D.C.

Our achievements are many and the work continues to Make Democracy Work. We've prevailed in one important Voter Protection lawsuit relating to "Motor Voter" rights, and we are still pursuing another lawsuit which hopefully will prevail over Missouri's implementation of the voter photo ID law. Regardless of that outcome, we will continue to fight for voter rights. We are poised to vigorously continue voter education and advocacy to support 2018's Amendment 1 (Clean Missouri) and its redistricting reforms. We are collaborating on new election reform initiatives on the ballot in 2020, and local members will promote public response to the 2020 Census to support fair redistricting for the decennial. Get Out the Vote will be a priority program for local Leagues for the 2020 elections. Operationally, our 25-year-old logo merchandising program continues to grow a national customer base, to be a major fundraiser for state operations, and to raise Missouri's profile among Leagues in other states.

In the past six months LWVMO has incorporated two major LWVUS-directed programs in our work: *Making Democracy Work* and the national campaign for *People Powered Fair Maps*. These two national programs have been underwritten with grants to LWVMO that are enabling local Leagues to receive equipment and materials for carrying out the specific goals of the two grants. Due to the grants we have also strengthened our connections to LWVUS staff who provide guidance to us on grassroots programming.

As we look ahead, let's reflect on the historical contributions of our local and state leaders. Board officers, board members, and program/portfolio leaders have played an extraordinary role in keeping the League mission alive for 100 years. Appreciate your leaders and support them by volunteering whenever and however you can in carrying out the League mission. Be willing to step forward and help or lead when needed. You will make a difference in whatever you choose to do and it is appreciated.

May you have a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year.

— Evelyn Maddox

LWVMO – Serving Missouri and Local Leagues Since 1919

The League of Women Voters of Missouri is asking for your financial support to keep the momentum going statewide in the fight to make democracy work for all Missourians, including defending Clean Missouri's redistricting reforms from challenges by our state legislature.

Consider honoring a friend who has everything with a \$100 donation to the League. Share that person's contact information for them to receive a gift notice before the holidays. Go online to lwvmissouri.org/donate or send a check to **LWVMO Education Fund, 8706 Manchester Ave., St. Louis MO 63144.**

State Settles Lawsuit, Will Improve Voter Registration at License Offices

The LWVMO Board of Directors accepted a settlement agreement with the state of Missouri on Nov. 1 to settle the League's lawsuit against the Secretary of State and the Department of Revenue (DOR). The lawsuit filed by LWV of Missouri and the A. Philip Randolph Institute in April 2018 accused the state of violating the federal National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) by not automatically updating voter information after residents change addresses.

As part of the settlement, DOR will redirect residents to the Secretary of State's voter registration website when they change their address at Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) license offices. DOR also agreed to improve voter registration services by changing in-person and mailed change-of-address requests.

LWVMO President Evelyn Maddox said the settlement will reduce voter disenfranchisement. "Each year, disenfranchisement occurs when Missouri voters appear at the polls and find out that they are not registered at their current address. While there are other improvements the League would like to see to make it easier to register and vote, these changes at DMV license offices will bring Missouri closer to full compliance and reduce the number of qualified voters being shut out of the political process."

The Department of Revenue also agreed to conduct audits, publish data and designate an NVRA coordinator to ensure compliance with the settlement. The agreement provides court supervision for two years following the final settlement on Nov. 18, 2019.



MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK 2020 LEGISLATIVE RETREAT

Saturday, January 18, 2020
HyVee, 25 Conley Road, Columbia

The annual Missouri Women's Network Legislative Retreat will take place on **January 18, 2020** at the HyVee, at 25 Conley Road, in Columbia. If there is a weather event, it would be rescheduled to **Saturday, January 25, 2020**.

If you are interested in Fast Democracy training, you should arrive at **8:30 a.m.** If participants only want to do the discussion and development of the 2020 Legislative Priorities, they should come later, at **10:00**.

Fast Democracy is a federal, state and local legislative analytics platform that aims to empower political professionals and newcomers alike to be more informed and effective while advocating for policy changes. Fast Democracy can help individuals and advocacy groups remain engaged after the elections by making it easier to participate in the legislative process and hold elected officials accountable. Trainer, Dr. Anatolij Gelimson.

To register, send your name, address, email, phone, and organization by **January 12, 2020** to: Pat Shores, 5337 Trailhead Court, Eureka, MO 63025

LOCAL LEAGUE REPORTS

LWV of Columbia-Boone County

Website: lwvcbc.org



Pam Springsteel, chair of our 100th Anniversary Committee, and new member Jeannie Lahman

We have been celebrating the Centennial with multiple events that include educational and historic information, including a September program featuring women judges, including Ann Covington, Ellen Roper, Christine Carpenter and Casey Cleventer, who shared their experiences and how much has changed from women entering the law profession in the 1970's compared to now.

A program in October featured Professor April Langley, chair of the Black Studies Department at the University of Missouri, who spoke about the history of black women in the struggle for women's suffrage; and a November program "Suffrage in the Silent Cinema" which included narration about the use of film by both the pro and anti-suffrage groups.

Members and some friends participated in the Columbia holiday parade on November 24, some walked the route, and a few of us got to ride in a Model A and a Model T vintage automobile!

We have major plans for December, including two centennial celebrations, one more formal with music and proclamations from the local city and county government, and one at a local brewery. Both events celebrated the 100th anniversary of our League Chapter.

— Marilyn McLeod

LWV of Metro St. Louis

Website: <http://www.lwvstl.org/>

More than 150 guests attended a November 13 gala banquet at the Sheldon Concert Hall to mark the 100th Anniversary of the St. Louis League. Many toured the Green Room where early meetings of the suffragists who founded the League were held. Betsey Bruce hosted the program to honor League presidents from the past 100 years.

LWVMO President Evelyn Maddox gave each honoree an engraved photo



Gay Gellhorn with Evelyn Maddox

frame. She also presented a certificate to Gay Gellhorn to honor her grandmother, Edna Gellhorn, who served as President of the Missouri League from 1919-21 and 1927-29.



Ida West is one of the former St. Louis League Presidents honored.

The gala is one of several events and projects included in our two-year celebration. From marching in parades, to a mass distribution of suffragist bookmarks at area libraries, to educational events and presentations, our League is sharing the story of women's suffrage.

— Nancy Miller and Louise Wilkerson

Local League Reports (continued from page 4)

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

Website: www.lwvswmo.org

LWV Southwest League members had many accomplishments in November, with more than 60 League volunteers working to improve our community. Members attended Adult Treatment courts to provide information for graduates to register and restore their right to vote. Additional dates are set for December graduates.



“Meet the Electeds,” an event we sponsor in partnership with Leadership Springfield and the Junior League, was very successful! Eight state representatives and one state senator had opportunities to share their most important issues for the coming term. Each official then moved from table to table, where small groups of people asked about issues of importance. Civil discourse was stressed, and the event was an educational experience for all.

“Alamo Votes” events were the focus of a \$1000 grant from The Alamo Drafthouse, given to LWVUS to pass on to local Leagues. Katie Gilbert, Centennial Chair, headed this event, working with Creative Manager Jennifer Johnmeyer at The Alamo. Theater-goers were able to register to vote, check or change their registrations, or take part in a voting survey to qualify for a drawing. Prizes included books about Harriett Tubman, Fred Rogers, and women’s suffrage. Nearly 100 attendees interacted with our League volunteers during these three events.

Linda Regan gave a presentation on suffrage titled, “Listen to Your Mama, Harry Burn,” to the Women in Communications organization.

Students from vice-president Ruth Walker’s Missouri State University class shared their research findings about ways to increase voting with about 40 League members at our two unit meetings and shared information on voting motivation at our Fall General Meeting.

Dr. Elizabeth Nichols gave an emotional and informative presentation at the General Meeting. She described the living conditions of detained children at our southern border, relating her experiences of visits she made to the detention camps last summer. She offered suggestions on what each of us can do and expressed a willingness to speak to other organizations.

During December, Joan Gentry, chair of Voter Services, and several committee members will be present in Suzanne Walker-Pacheco’s classes at Missouri State, sharing information and registering voters. A favorite social event, our annual Holiday Party, will be at Maggie Castrey’s home on December 3. We will be sending letters to all area residential facilities for older citizens and will offer our presentation, “Voting from the Comfort of Your Home.”

We will furnish pizza and host a “Voting Trivia” night at Eden Village, a community of tiny homes for formerly homeless individuals, on December 8. We held a voter registration drive there earlier this fall and will offer registration again at Trivia Night.



— Joan Gentry & Marge Bramer

Climate Change Tips from the Fall Conference

Here is some information you can use to help slow climate change.

Actions to influence your government and others:

- * Become knowledgeable and talk about what you learn with others. Here are a few options: <http://climate.nasa.gov/>
- * Support candidates for office that support taking action to mitigate and prepare for climate change
 - Ask candidates their position on taking action on climate change.
 - Donate your time or your money or both to help them get elected and VOTE.
- * Write, call, e-mail, tweet: contact your elected officials and tell them you care about climate change and want the government to take action to reduce the impact of future climate change.
- * Join an advocacy group addressing climate change. For example, <https://www.sierraclub.org/>, www.interfaithpowerandlight.org, citizensclimatelobby.org, [Climate Reality Project](http://ClimateRealityProject.org)
- * Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper on why you care about climate change.
- * Tell your friends and family how much you save in terms of energy and/or money on climate actions.
- * Arrange for a presentation for your group to raise awareness of climate change impact and solutions. If you need a presenter, check <https://realityhub.climateproject.org/events/edit-item/272/null>



In Missouri, you can contact carolyn.amparan@gmail.com.

Actions to reduce home or office energy use

- * Lower your thermostat when it is cold, raise it when it is warm (aceee.org estimates 2 percent savings on heating bills for each degree you lower the thermostat for eight hours at a time). Try for 78 Degrees F in the summer and 65 Degrees F in the winter.
- * Change your frequently used lights to lighting that uses less energy. Look for Energy Star products. The EPA estimates you can save \$70/year by changing 5 frequently used lights.
- * Keep air filters clean on central air systems. Change at least every 3 months.
- * Replace really old appliances with models that use less energy. Look for [the Energy Star](#) label and compare the ratings on products. Get rid of that 2nd refrigerator, if you have one.
- * Use appliances in off peak hours and only when they are full for appliances like the dishwasher or the clothes washer. In summer peak hours are generally between 3-8 pm.
- * Wash your laundry in cold water and dry it on a line, weather and location permitting.
- * Unplug items that use electricity even when not in use (think charging plugs, lights, clocks, computers, TVs, cable boxes, etc.) “Did you know that the total electricity consumed by idle electronics equals the annual output of 12 power plants?” (Source: epa.gov)
- * Use water efficiently. “Three percent of the nation's energy is used to pump and treat water so conserving water conserves energy that reduces greenhouse gas pollution.” <https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/?view=list> . (Source: epa.gov)

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MISSOURI

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314-961-6869 « league@lwvmissouri.org « www.lwvmissouri.org

Officers

President: Evelyn Maddox (Kansas City)
Vice President: Marilyn McLeod (Columbia)
Secretary: Louise Wilkerson (St. Louis)
Treasurer: (vacant)

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/Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties)
Elaine Blodgett (Columbia)
Lorraine Sandstrom (Southwest)
Louise Wilkerson (St. Louis)

Executive Director: Jean Dugan
Office Assistant: Chantal Hoffsten

Historian and Voter Protection Coalition
Liaison: Linda McDaniel
Parliamentarian: Debb Howard

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson
LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

CALENDAR

2019

December 7: Gala Celebration of the Centennial of the LWVCBC, 2-4 p.m., Broadway Christian Church, Columbia

December 11: Cheer our Centennial (Columbia League) at DogMaster Distillery, 6-8 p.m., Columbia.

2020

January 18: Missouri Women's Network Legislative Retreat, Columbia

February 14: The National League of Women Voters was formally organized in Chicago in 1920.

February 14: LWV Day of Action

February 15: Equal-Tea, LWVCBC and AAUW, 2-4 p.m., at First Baptist Church, Columbia

WANTED: A new treasurer for LWVMO and its Education Fund. If you're interested in this position on the board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Elaine Blodgett at 573-256-2803 or elaineblodgett@gmail.com.

LWV Tennessee Fights for Voter Registration

In October, in a victory for Tennessee voters, a federal district court judge granted the League of Women Voters of Tennessee a preliminary injunction in their case *League of Women Voters of Tennessee v. Hargett*. The case challenged a recently-passed Tennessee law that leveled civil fines and criminal penalties on organizations that register voters.

Voters deserve every possible opportunity to get registered or update their registration. We're thankful the court recognized that voter registration organizations play a critical role in empowering voters, and therefore shouldn't be punished for their efforts.



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

LWVUS National Day of Action: February 14, 2020

On February 14, 2020, the League of Women Voters will turn 100 years old. For this milestone anniversary, we want to celebrate our history, our future—and most importantly, the power of our members. We know that each League has been working hard to prepare celebrations for our 100th anniversary, and we want to harness the power you are building in your communities by amplifying the League’s message and visibility through an official Day of Action. The Day of Action provides a framework to capture the events happening across the country to tell a single story of our impact. The Day of Action is designed to fit seamlessly into your League’s current plans to celebrate our centennial. To support planning, the LWV team created a toolkit at this link to help you execute your events: <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/Day%20of%20Action%20Toolkit.pdf>.

We hope your local League will plan to “Take Action” on February 14!

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

Voice: 314-961-6869

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org