



Missouri Voter

Volume 76, Issue 2

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

March/April 2015

President's Message



Spring In Missouri

With the legislature in the middle of decision-making in Jefferson City, state board members are there either testifying or sending in testimony to legislators. Other League members around the state are participating in lobbying issue days, like health care and equal pay with other interested groups of citizens. Locally, issues and candidates are on the Spring ballot and voters guides are being issued. Candidate Forums and issues meetings are also being held.

It's the norm for this time of year in League.

We are the 'Voter' people. Who else encourages every citizen to register and then to educate themselves on the issues and then get to the polls and vote and putting that information into action? We **are** the 'citizenship' people who encourage others to participate in their government by voting on issues and candidates: civics in action.

We encourage responsible citizenship.

Join us at the Inn at Grand Glaize at the "Lake" in May and share ideas and successful projects from this past year. Help in deciding our future direction. Come a day early and enjoy the Lake Ozark area.

See you there,

Elaine Mitchell Blodgett
LWVMO President

Upcoming Office Closings

2015 Events

- Apr. LWVMO BOD - Conf. Call
- May 1—LWVMO BOD Mtg
- May 2/3 - LWVMO State Convention
Lake of the Ozark

Websites of Interest

www.lwvmissouri.org
(state)

www.lwv.org (national)

www.covermissouri.org
MO Foundation for Health

www.sos.mo.gov
Secretary of State's Office

www.senate.mo.gov

www.house.mo.gov
Missouri Legislature

Donations received since last VOTER

LWV Missouri 2 contributions for a total of \$75

LWV Missouri Education Fund
2 contributions from non-member for a total of \$100
in memory of League members

Contributions are ALWAYS needed and greatly appreciated
Do you have ideas on who we can target for \$\$? Please let us know.

**Consider making donation in honor/memory of your Mother/
Grandmother/sister/daughter for LWV Birthday or Mothers Day!!!!**

Information on local programs, articles and projects can be sent to shapeshome@yahoo.com

Upcoming **Voter** Deadlines:
May 15, 2015 (May-June)

Equal Rights Action Day

The League of Women Voters of Missouri, along with other women organizations, will participate in the annual Equal Rights Action Day for Women at the state Capitol on April 14, 2015.

Currently two identical bills have been filed: SB 144 (LeVota) and HB 44 (Webber). These require the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to create best practice guidelines in gender pay equality for state and local government and private businesses. Such guidelines may include, but not be limited to, explanations of the following:

- What is gender pay equality;
- Why gender pay inequality happens;
- The benefits of gender pay equality; and
- How to achieve gender pay equality.

The guidelines must take effect by January 31, 2016.

Each bill has received a hearing; HB 44 on March 9th and SB 144 on March 17th.

It has been reported that women in Missouri earn 71 percent of what men do for the same job; the national average is 78 cents.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 8:45 am Legislative Briefing/Continental Breakfast:
Hosted by: MO Women Network
- 11:00 am "Rally under the Dome "with legislators and organizations sharing messages of the need for equality and justice for women
Coordinated by: AAUW MO

*Ample time for individuals to meet with their state legislators on equal pay and other issues important to women before or after the 11:00 am rally.

One of the goals of the LWVMO is to be more visible at the capitol. This is one opportunity for our League members to participate with other organizations in an issue important to the League.

Please plan to attend and show your support for the League and Women’s Equality Day!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI
STATE CONVENTION
LAKE OF THE OZARKS



MAY 2-3, 2015



INN AT GRAND GLAIZE
5142 Osage Beach Parkway
Osage Beach, MO 65065 800-348-4731

Concurrences

**New study
GUN CONTROL BY
MUNICIPALITIES**

**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**WORKSHOP
HOW TO
BE MORE VISIBLE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**MEDICAL
MARIJUANA**

**MENTAL
HEALTH**

**WORKSHOP
PARTNERING
WITH
DIVERSE
GROUPS**

**Speaker
Rachel Bringer Shepherd,
Circuit Judge from Hannibal**

REGISTRATION 9:00AM / OPENING GAVEL 10:00AM SATURDAY

- Your VOICE counts. Don't miss your chance to decide what issues the state board will adopt for the coming biennium
- Meet League members from across the state
- Discuss the issues that are important to our communities and how to take action on them
- Hear how the St. Louis League was able to hold a candidates' forum in Ferguson
- Friday, May 1 EARLY BIRD SPECIALS –
 - ⇒ Enjoy your thing to do at the Lake
 - ⇒ Meet with the state board for evening hospitality
 - ⇒ Update your data about big money in elections

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM TODAY!

Come early and enjoy things to do at the lake. Bring your family for a weekend at the lake – They can enjoy the lake while you are at convention.

Following is a short list of things to do at the Lake

- ◇ [Osage National Golf Club](#) (Osage Beach Arnold Palmer-designed golf course features 7,150 yards of beautiful fairways and bent grass greens)
- ◇ [Osage Beach Premium Outlets](#) (Osage Beach) Osage Beach Premium Outlets is the largest outlet center in Missouri with over 100 stores.
- ◇ [Bear Creek Valley Golf Club](#) (Osage Beach) 18-Hole Par 72 Public Golf Course nestled amid Ozark forest and hills.
- ◇ [Ozark Distillery](#) (Osage Beach) Ozark Distillery is a small family owned and operated craft distillery offering hand crafted spirits. We produce Corn Whiskey Moonshine, Bourbon Whiskey, Premium Vodka, Apple Pie Moonshine, Blackberry Moonshine, Vanilla Bean Moonshine and Butterscotch Moonshine. We offer tastings every day of the week and free tours on Saturday's every hour starting at 10:00am. Tours last approximately 30 minutes and tastings follow free tour.
- ◇ [Playin Hooky Water Taxi & Charters, LLC](#) (Lake Ozark) We are a Lake of the Ozarks Water Taxi and Charter Service specializing in large groups up to 85
- ◇ [Main Street Music Hall / Main Street Opry](#)
- ◇ [Swinging Bridge](#) (Osage Beach) Address: Highway 42, Ozarks State Park, Osage Beach, MO
- ◇ [Bagnell Dam](#) (Osage Beach)

Nominating Committee Report LWVMO

Slate for 2015-2017

Officers

President	Elaine Blodgett	Columbia
Vice President	Mary Merritt	Sedalia/Pettis County
Secretary	Peg Prendergast	Kansas City/J/C/P
Treasurer	Debby Waite Howard	St. Louis

Directors (8)

Kathleen Boswell	Sedalia/Pettis County
Nancy Copenhaver	Moberly/Randolph County
Barb Davis	Mexico/Audrain County
Kathleen Farrell	St. Louis
Linda McDaniel	St. Louis
Marilyn McLeod	Columbia-Boone County
Marty Ott	St. Louis
Janie Riley	Moberly/Randolph County

Nominating Committee

Chair	Lael Von Holt	Columbia-Boone County
	Lois Detrick	Southwest Missouri
	Sue Brockett	Southeast Missouri

Submitted by State Board Nominating Committee 2015-2017:

Chair	Cindy Stephens	Southwest Missouri
Elected Members	Mary Merritt	Sedalia/Pettis County
	Lael Von Holt	Columbia-Boone County
Appointed Members	Marilyn McLeod	Columbia-Boone County
	Barb Davis	Mexico/Audrain County

HOW TO REGISTER FOR CONVENTION

- ◆ Delegates are selected by the Local League board so let your President know that you want to be a delegate
- ◆ Any League member may be an observer. Observers have the privilege of the floor and receive the same conference materials as delegates
- ◆ So, Talk to your president/ make your hotel reservation
- ◆ Or print out the form below and mail with payment to the League Office

OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM

Local League affiliation _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$100.00 for registration at the LWVMO State Convention
 Registration fee includes Lunch and Banquet on Saturday and convention materials
Send to: LWVMO 8706 Manchester Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144-2733

Local League Activities

St. Louis

Our League has a new name! In February our membership voted to restructure and put all of our assets into League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, a 501c3 organization. Under these terms, we can use up to 20% of our money for direct advocacy, streamline our bookkeeping and records, and make most of our dues tax deductible. We think it will strengthen our league and make us more attractive to donors and granting agencies. If any other league wants to know more, just let us know. We had great help from other leagues around the country who have made this change and would be happy to share.

The upcoming municipal elections have brought a great demand for our voter services. Our Voters Guide covers over 900 candidates and over 80 ballot issues. We have had record attendance at our forums and are looking forward to hosting the Ferguson City Council candidates' event on March 30th.

After the election we begin work on our educational program geared toward newly naturalized citizens and college students funded by the Roblee Foundation.

If all of this sounds like a lot of work--- we took a break on March 7th to host our 2nd annual Trivia Night. A great time was had by all and between the games, table fees, mulligans and wine pull (ask us about that) we even made some money.

We look forward to seeing you all at the "Lake" in May.

Linda McDaniel and Kathleen Farrell
 Co- Presidents

Moberly/Randolph County

We have been working on our Spring Forum for School Board and City Council races, which will be held March 31st.

We have also started a membership campaign. We sent letters to local leaders in the community to come to the March Forum and see our group in action, and then to attend a salad supper April 9th to hear League's mission and why our members enjoy being part of the organization etc.

Each League member continues to observe local boards and reports what they have learned at our annual meeting in May. This is also our way of keeping the various boards aware of the Sunshine Law.

Connie Asbury

Officers

President: Elaine Blodgett
Vice President: Debby Waite Howard
Secretary: Marilyn McLeod
Treasurer: Jerry Osborne

Directors

Nancy Copenhaver: Tax Policy
Barb Davis: Voter Service, Oral History Project, Health
Kathleen Farrell: Voter Service
Peggy Placier: Education
Linda McDaniel: Elections
Marty Ott: Legislative Action
Peg Prendergast: MO Voter

Nominating Committee

Cindy Stephens, Chair
Mary Merritt
Lael Von Holt

LWWUS Board Liaison:
Karen Nicholson

LWWUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

Webmaster: Rachel Brekhus

Joint Office Executive Director:
Anna Mennerick

Fact Checking

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

www.politifact.com or
www.factcheck.org
www.flackcheck.org
www.snopes.com

Local League Activities**Kansas City/Jackson/Clay/Platte**

Candidate Forums - The run-up to an election is always an exciting time in Kansas City and surrounding areas. The LWWKC/J/C/P has stepped up both to host candidate forums and to promote participation in forums being hosted by others. On March 18, we hosted a forum for KC City Council Districts north of the Missouri River in cooperation with the Woodneath Library in the Kansas City northland. A forum with all three candidates for KCMO Mayor was held on March 24 at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. On March 31, a Raytown Mayoral forum and Alderman "Meet and Greet" was held at the Raytown City Council Chambers. The Mayoral Forum on March 24 was covered by news media, notably *The Kansas City Star*. The Vice President of our League and his wife who is our Secretary provided planning and leadership for these events. They successfully engaged numerous members of our League in these events.

Money in Politics - We are working to educate the public about the money in politics issue. Our President has made three presentations on this issue, using materials prepared and made available on-line by the Massachusetts League. The first presentation was to our own League members and guests in November; the second at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Kansas City Sunday Forum in December; and the third to Retired Clergy in February in Overland Park, Kansas. Our membership chair presented to the women's club in her church in March. We will continue to seek opportunities to make additional presentations. The audiences for these presentations expressed thanks for the historical perspective going back to the early part of the 20th century, the various laws that had been passed to correct problems, and the more recent Supreme Court decisions that have resulted in the deluge of money flowing into elections. Of particular interest, of course, was the guidance on what they might do to help make an impact on this problem.

Priority Issues to be Addressed at March and April Regular Meetings - Our March regular meeting will have speakers on the need to raise the minimum wage in order to have a Livable Wage. Our April regular meeting will have a speaker on global climate change and another on solar energy.

Linda Smith
 President

Columbia-Boone County

The Columbia-Boone County LWV was fortunate to receive several thousand dollars in a bequest from Jane Biederman-Fike, a woman who had worked in the mental health field and was a colleague of our own Lael Von Holt.

We thought a great use of the funds would be for a project in that field, to allow groups or individuals to use for Mental Health First Aid training. Mental Health First Aid is a nationally recognized eight hour course by certified instructors. Earlier this year we received an application from an organization called "Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition" requesting \$2000 to pay for Mental Health First Aid training to be offered to the six county school districts. The funds will be used to train as many as 100 individuals (teachers) with the skills needed to identify and help students with their emotional and behavioral needs and to refer them for professional services if needed. Missouri has been a leader nationally in promoting this education project.

We are truly grateful for having received these funds to enable us to provide this important training.

Marilyn McLeod
 Co-President



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

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