

The Voter

UNIT MEETINGS

The February unit meetings will be **Monday, February 20th at 5:30pm** at Magnia A Nonna's Italian Kitchen, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, February 21st at noon** at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

You will not want to miss hearing Amy Blouin at the February Unit meetings! Join us for what will surely be a lively conversation.

Amy Blouin is the founder and Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project, a nonprofit, public policy organization that advocates in favor of fiscally responsible public policies that advance the well-being of all Missourians, particularly our most vulnerable families who too often don't have a voice in policy decisions. They work to enhance the ability of all Missourians to participate in the public debate and ensure that advocates, policy makers and the public have the information needed to create sound fiscal policies.

Amy has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Saint Louis University, spent time working in Central America and with the Iowa Department of Economic Development European Office in Frankfurt, Germany. Amy has worked on state tax and fiscal policy issues for more than 15 years and has received regional and statewide recognition for her work. In 2012, the St. Louis Business Journal named Amy "One of the Most Influential St. Louisians." Other awards include a "40 Under 40" award from the St. Louis Business Journal and the Missouri Women's Network 2010 Award for Advancing Women's Equality.

The March unit meetings will be **Monday, March 20th at 5:30pm** at Magnia A Nonna's Italian Kitchen, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, March 21st at noon** at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

Our speaker, Erick Roberts, is the Superintendent of Solid Waste, with the Environmental Services and Public Works department at the City of Springfield. He will give an update on the current trash haulers study about how best to provide trash service in the city.

**Directions for Tuesday Unit Meeting: From Central and Summit, go north on Summit and park in the first lot on your right or left. The Student Center is the red brick building in the northwest corner of the parking lot on your left. Go up the stairs by the pergola and Room 204 is immediately inside.*

LWV OF MISSOURI SPRING CONVENTION

Our league is hosting the 2017 Spring Convention! Mark your calendars now for Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29. There will be a general business meeting on Friday afternoon from 2pm-5pm, a reception for all delegates on Friday evening from 5:30pm-7:00pm, and the conference will be from 9am-3pm on Saturday. Registration information will be sent out to all members through the state league newsletter, the MO Voter. We will also have the registration information in our March newsletter.

We will be hosting seven other leagues from across the state, so we'll need help, lots of help! We'll need bakers to bring goodies and cookies to the meetings, registration helpers, and general ambassadors to greet and ensure everyone has a great time! In addition, it is customary for the host league to open some of our homes as an overnight host for a league delegate. We need to have a list of home hosts by March 1st, so we know how many places we have to offer to the rest of the state delegates. If you are interested in helping with any aspect of the Convention, please contact Convention Committee Chair, Lorraine Sandstrom, at: icsandstrom@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We welcomed 15 new members at the Orientation held in January and hosted by Lisa Slattery. We are thrilled to have all these motivated, energized, and interesting new members! If you missed this orientation, or just joined in the last month, you will be sent an invitation to our next New Member Orientation in the next few weeks.



TAKE ACTION RALLY

WOW! That was the general consensus of the *Take Action Rally* held on Saturday, January 28! You all kept coming...and coming...and when it was time to start, there were 63 members who showed up early that day to brainstorm plans for action on issues important to the league. There was clearly an energy in the room and everyone was on a mission to step up, dive in, and be part of the solution.

We left there with 8 new committees who will be having their first planning meeting in the next month or so: Money in Politics, Photo Voter ID, Voter Outreach, Publicity and Community Relations, Zone 1 and Poverty, Legislative Action, Environmental Sustainability, and Mental Health. If you had to miss this event, we will send out a separate email detailing the plans for each committee and the date/time/location of their first meeting.



Voter Outreach Committee



Publicity and Community Relations Committee



Zone 1 and Poverty Committee



Mental Health Committee



Environmental Sustainability Committee



LOST AND FOUND

A wine-colored Contigo insulated coffee cup was left at the Take Action Rally. If it's yours, contact Leslie Carrier at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS!

We had to submit our final membership roster to the national league this week and we topped out at 111 members! Last year our membership was 76. That means we've gained 35 new members, or a 46% increase, in just one year! It's going to be a productive and exciting year ahead for our league!

HAPPY 97TH BIRTHDAY!

The League of Women Voters began on Valentine's Day in 1920. There have been many changes, advancements and improvements in the past 97 years, but there is clearly more work to be done. Plans are already underway for the 100th birthday in 2020!

LEAGUE NAMETAGS

If you'd like a League name tag, call John at Springfield Stamp & Engraving, 881-8828. They have the template and logo for the name tag and it usually takes about 1-2 days to complete. The name tags are \$9 each. They are located at 1416 S. Glenstone, near the Glenstone Station Post Office.

GET INVOLVED LOCALLY

Are you looking for a way to get involved? Do you have an interest in local policy? If so, check out the list of boards and commissions for the [City of Springfield](#) and [Greene County](#). These boards are always looking for citizens to serve and will accept applications throughout the year. Many public officials get their start by serving on a local board or commission! Why not be the next one?

SPEAK UP! TAKE ACTION!

One of the easiest actions we can all take right now is to make our voices heard by contacting our elected representatives and senators, both on the state and national levels. [Click here](#) for a list of all our local, state, and national representatives and senators (thanks to Ann Elwell for collecting this information for us).

Upcoming Dates

Life Interrupted: Art for Social Change

Thursday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m. – Roundtable discussion with local community leaders. **Location:** Reed Auditorium, Trustee Science Center on the Drury campus.

Friday Feb. 3, 3-4:30 p.m. – Dance workshop and story circle with the CORE Performance Company.

Location: Drury on C-Street Gallery, 233 E. Commercial Street.

Friday, Feb. 3, 5-8 p.m. – Interactive art installation & exhibition opening (following the dance workshop and story circle). **Location:** Drury on C-Street Gallery, 233 E. Commercial Street.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. – “Life Interrupted” dance theatrical performance by the CORE Performance Company. [Reserve tickets for free online.](#) **Location:** Wilhoit Theater, Breech School of Business, corner of Central Street and Drury Lane.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 6-7:30 p.m. – Panel Discussion on Architecture & Power, led by Drury architecture professors Dr. Robert Weddle, Dr. Panos Leventis and Nancy Chikaraishi. **Location:** Drury on C-Street Gallery, 233 E. Commercial Street.

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3512 S. National Ave

Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 12:00 noon

Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

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Municipal Election

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Municipal Election for School Board and City Council Candidates

MSU Public Affairs Conference

April 4-7, 2017

[Click here](#) for a complete schedule of events

Keynote Speaker: April 4, 2017; 7:30-8:30pm

Keynote Speaker: Doris Kearns Goodwin

[Click here](#) for more details on her speech.



MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Synder

Sophie Reynolds

New member Sophie Reynolds is a Medical Case Manager at AIDS Project of the Ozarks. Her educational background includes a Master’s degree in Gender and Women’s Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Sophie has a wide range of interests, including reality TV, going to movies, raccoon art, podcasts, thrifting, and putting stickers in her weekly planner. Not sure if raccoon art was something hip and over the head of this outdated author, a Google search was in order. Turns out raccoon art is exactly what it says: art about raccoons.

Sophie is married to another recruit (also named Sophie!) and they are proud parents of two crazy dogs, Mary and Daisy. Her sister-in-law, Chloe, recently relocated here from the UK and is currently living with the Sophies and their crazy dogs. And they’re loving it!

Sophie was inspired to join the League after the election because she wanted to work with women to make a difference in our local community. She “is sick of feeling helpless” and wants to do whatever she can “to make sure that dissenting voices are heard.”

Sophie Slater



Our other new ‘Sophie’ is Sophie Slater. She is a Federal Navigator at AIDS Project of the Ozarks. As a Navigator, she educates and enrolls people in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. She also has a Master’s degree in Gender and Women’s Studies from the University of Minnesota, Mankato. Hmm...wonder where she and Sophie met?

This Sophie is a big fan of video games, especially the Legend of Zelda. She also enjoys reading, walking her rescued terriers, and being an activist. Her interests don’t seem to overlap much with the other Sophie’s, but we assume they find common ground somewhere. Maybe walking through thrift stores or reading about podcasts?

Sophie joined the League after the 2016 election. She realized that she needs to do more in her community to educate and empower young voters. The League’s “excellent reputation for voter engagement” got her attention and that encouraged her to become a part of our team.

This Sophie has a lovely English accent. That will help you tell them apart.

Welcome aboard Sophie and Sophie!

WOMEN’S MARCH

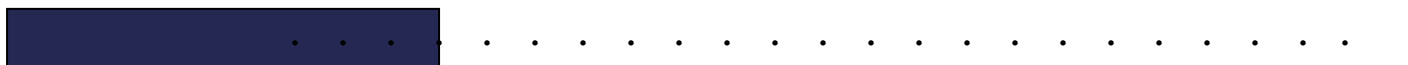
We had 34 members from our League participate in the Springfield March! It was an inspirational day and a proud moment for our league, as two of the speakers and one organizer were league members. **Crystal Quade**, State Representative-District 132, gave a rousing speech on the importance of women running for office and having a place at the table. Click to hear **State Representative Crystal Quade’s** speech: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EFkP3QNd05U&feature=youtu.be>

Crystal Brigman Mahaney, Deputy Director, Missouri Health Care for All, shared very personal stories about the importance of maintaining health care services for all citizens. **Alex Johnson**, Drury student and march organizer, was front and center on stage introducing the speakers and leading the crowd in chants for democracy. And our Membership Chair, **Ilgá Vise**, got interviewed by KOLR-10 TV for their 10pm news broadcast that day! There were many misty eyes among the League members as we watched all of you do your part! Well done, everyone!



League members at the start of the march.

Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more pictures from the march in Springfield.



Our own League member’s Maggie Castry and Julie Schulze both attended the Women’s march in Washington, D.C. They each have shared their experiences, from their perspective about one of the largest marches in U.S. history. Read here for their inspirational stories:

Julie Schulze



For those who couldn’t see the stage, speakers such as women’s leader Gloria Steinem were broadcast on the jumbo screens set up along the march route.



Julie and her sister were just two of the thousands in the crowds on this historic day!



Maggie Castrey, in teal green jacket in the middle, with her group of marchers in Washington, D.C.

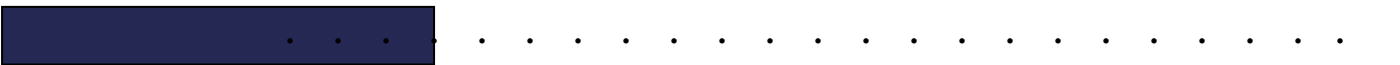
Women’s March Changed My Life
By Maggie Castrey

Participating in the Women’s March on Washington January 21 changed my life forever. A walking partner had invited me to share an Airbnb outside of D.C. with six other women from Springfield and Kansas City, for which I am deeply grateful. Being part of a group of over a million was profoundly affirming, but the real take away for me – what will inform my ACTIONS in the days and months ahead – came from one-on-one interactions with the women in our Missouri group.

Everything about the mass march was awesome! The conversations and community I felt during the packed Metro train ride into D.C. uplifted and inspired me. I was stunned by my first wide-angle view of the crowds as we topped a hill from the metro. Everywhere I looked, an endless sea of peaceful protesters, every street in every direction packed with citizens expressing their concerns and articulating the change they wanted. Being in the company of such a massive group gave me hope for the future of our country.

The statement of principles distributed by the march’s organizers listed nearly 100 distinct causes. I counted. Seeing the diversity of people and signs and messages made me realize that we all need to support each other. We must not descend to infighting, nor try to raise “my cause over yours.” There are many moving parts to this effort, and it will take all of us working in whatever arena calls to us.

I had the honor of helping present the program at an After-March Action program on Saturday evening. We used those few hours to visit a restroom (in short supply at the march), consolidate our experiences, rest tired feet, enjoy fellowship



and refreshment, and wait for the Metro to clear. Each of the 150 women at that event was in full awareness and possession of her power and determined to work for progressive values. They reminded me of our League back in Springfield and I was proud that League of Women Voters was a march sponsor!

The mass demonstration was moving and unforgettable, but the time we seven Missourians spent talking, processing and planning is what will lead to meaningful action in my life. Our understanding of each other's priorities and shared sense of commitment grew while we prepared our signs the night before. During the (many) hours of inching toward the march program stage (we never got closer than six blocks but we did glimpse one of the Jumbotrons), we witnessed the issues and determination of others, shared laughs at their creativity and humor, and drew encouragement and support from other marchers. And during the hours that followed, sharing Uber rides and meals, wandering through the Mall during the cleanup and tear down of the weekend's events, strolling the National Gallery of Art, we encouraged each other and made our plans for action.

By email and in person we will all continue to encourage and inspire each other. Each of us will connect with others who share our desire to maintain the USA as a light of hope for the entire world. We will work for a democracy with inclusive, fair and free elections; that honors our constitutional rights (including grievance, religion, assembly, speech and press); that protects the rights of marginalized peoples; and that will pass on to future generations a planet that is healthier than the one we were born into.

So much to do! My ears still ring with the chant I heard throughout the march and which echoed through the Lincoln Memorial on a sea of pink hats the Sunday following the march: "This is what democracy looks like!"

My experience in Washington D.C. changed me from feeling frightened, demoralized, appalled and discouraged into a person invigorated, inspired, connected and determined to save our democracy. I look forward to working with each of you to achieve that goal.

