

# January 2017 Newsletter

## 2017 CALL TO ACTION

Based on new member enthusiasm and for many, reactions to the election, the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri are ready to take action to improve our democracy, communities, and citizens. At our November unit meetings, members identified topics to explore and wanted to get the ball rolling right away in 2017. So, our board created work groups or teams take action in a specific area in the coming year. The work groups will be organized around themes such as Money in Politics, Trash and Recycling Options in Springfield, Improving Landlord/Tenant agreements, and Amendment 6 Actions (helping citizens get necessary documents for state IDs). In January we will host a general meeting, our Take Action Rally, where members will select one of these themes and meet in groups to develop calls to action.

Kelly Wood & Leslie Carrier  
Co-Presidents League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New to the League? Join us on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 5:30-8:00 pm, at the home of Lisa Slattery, 4856 S. Claridge Circle. Learn about the League, its history and mission. Bring an interested friend! Light supper will be served. Please RSVP to Ilga Vise at [ivise@drury.edu](mailto:ivise@drury.edu) or Kelly Wood at [Kellywood@Missouristate.edu](mailto:Kellywood@Missouristate.edu).

## UNIT MEETINGS

There will be no unit meetings in January but please join us on January 28<sup>th</sup> for a general meeting. Details will be sent out in a separate email.

The February unit meetings will be Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Nonna's Italian Cafe, 3512 S. National and Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center. We will be hearing from Erick Roberts on making our city's solid waste hauling more efficient.

*\*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 will host the 2017 State Spring Conference for all leagues across the state. It will be held Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29. A business meeting and reception will be held on Friday afternoon and evening, and the conference will be held from 9-3 on Saturday. More details to come, but mark it on your calendar now as we want a wonderful turnout from our own league members. Great ideas are swirling and it promises to be filled with lots of interesting discussion about how to take our action and advocacy forward in the next few years.

## THE LEAGUE AT WORK

League member Crystal Brigman-Mahaney shared this note from election day: "I gave someone a ride to the polls and I spied that she had brought a LWV Voters Guide with her to vote!"

A note from Kelly: Here we are at OPT (Ozarks Public Television) taking calls on the election for a *Sense of Community* call in show. What a great group of patient, thoughtful and considerate question takers you all were. You represented the League so WELL! Thank you for your time and effort to the community.



Ann Nelms, Peggy Hedrick, Nora Cox, Kelly Wood, and LeeAnn Worman

## NOTE FROM NATIONAL LWV

The LWVUS Board of Directors discussed whether the League should participate officially in the planned Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017. The board considered feedback from the State Presidents call, the State

Presidents/ED listserv, and the State Executive Director calls to inform its decision. We also considered information about the March available online.

After a thoughtful discussion weighing the pros and cons, the board decided that LWVUS is not planning to officially participate in the Women’s March\*\*. We believe in the freedom of assembly as a cornerstone of our open democracy. We support political activism and encourage people across the United States to let their voices be heard.

If League members wish to attend this event, we do not discourage it. **We kindly request that League members do not wear League buttons or carry League signs in this march.** We will monitor the organization of this event and if additional information emerges before January 21 that indicates it will be a non-partisan diverse, and inclusive event, the LWVUS may reconsider its decision.

\*\*This same decision will apply to any local or state marches.

## CONGRATS CRYSTAL QUADE!



She is a league member and the newly elected State Representative District 132 for northwest Springfield! In addition, she was elected the Vice President of the Freshman Class of state representatives! What’s very exciting is that Crystal came through the League’s *Women Leaders* training held a few years ago and stated her intention to run for public office. And now, here she is!

## Upcoming Dates

### General Meeting

Saturday, January 28, 2017; 9am-noon  
Location TBA

### New Member Orientation

Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 5:30-8:00pm  
At the home of Lisa Slattery

### Unit Meetings

Monday, February 20, 2017, 5:30 p.m.  
Nonna’s Italian Cafe, 3512 S. National  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 12:00 noon  
Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

### 2017 Spring Conference

Saturday, April 29, 2017  
Location TBA

## HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP

It was a packed house at the holiday party in December! We had 50 members, and many new members, who enjoyed a wonderful evening at Maggie’s home. There were conversations going on in every nook and cranny and lots of plans for action in the new year. Thanks, Maggie, for hosting a great night!

