



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

November 2016 Newsletter

UNIT MEETINGS

The November unit meetings will be Monday, November 21st at 5:30pm at Nonna's South, 3512 S. National and Tuesday, November 15th at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center.

This month, Rusty Worley, head of the Downtown Springfield Association, will be speaking to us about how the Millennials and their lifestyles will change the city, such as having more public transportation and bike lanes. He will also talk about the work of the Downtown Springfield Association.

Each unit identified call for "ACTION" this year in response to reviewing our positions. The Monday night unit members identified and discussed access to transportation, recycling and trash service in neighborhoods, and accessibility to better housing for all. The Tuesday unit zeroed in on racial justice in our community, landlord/tenant issues, and support and education of law enforcement regarding disability and diversity issues.

**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.*

LEAGUE TAKES ON AMEND 6 WITH LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Following best practices of LWV chapters across the United States, we have three Letters to the Editor being published to voice our opposition to Amendment 6. Thanks to League member Ann Elwell and her media savvy, our letters will appear in the Springfield News-Leader, Springfield Business Journal, and the Joplin Globe. Here is an excerpt from the SBJ letter titled, "Vote NO on Amendment 6 requiring Voter Photo ID:"

Let's talk about the real voting problem in Missouri. And it's not voter impersonation fraud.

In April, the Greene County Clerk's office reports that just over 10 percent of eligible voters showed up to elect school board members, city council members and mayors, and to determine important bond issues and tax measures. On 18,968 Greene County voters turned out, a dismal number

mirrored in counties across Missouri. Constitutional Amendment 6, which would require a photo ID for all voters, has been touted as a solution to voter fraud. In fact, county clerks across the U.S. agree that voter fraud is extremely rare and voter impersonation fraud is almost non-existent. Yet Amendment 6 supporters are pushing it as a necessary to keep elections fair.

Here is an excerpt from the NL letter titled, "Photo ID for Voters: It's not that simple."

Remember the excitement of voting for the first time? Now, imagine a college senior from Ohio who doesn't have a Missouri driver's license but has voted in Springfield every election since starting college, who will no longer be able to do so. Or think of your 86-year old Mother-in-Law who just gave away her car. Once her current driver's license expires, she'll have to figure out how to get a non-driver's license, even though her assisted living place doesn't have a shuttle and her health is fragile. These are very real issues citizens will face if Amendment 6 passes.

Amendment 6 seeks to change our Missouri Constitutions to require all voters to have a photo ID in order to cast a ballot. Some ask, "Why is it such a big deal to get a photo ID?" For many of us, it's not a big deal. For many, many others this seemingly easy task presents obstacles that are impossible to overcome. At best, this requirement presents a disincentive to voting at a time when voter turnout is dismally low.

Kelly and Leslie give a big shout out to Ann Elwell for helping us craft these letters to make the strongest case possible against this Amendment. Thanks also to Marge Bramer for being our Amendment 6 guru and sharing her knowledge with us as well. We are lucky to have League members like them who provide their strengths so willingly. Thank you!

WRITERS NEEDED, ASAP

All league members are encouraged to write a Letter to the Editor voicing the reasons to Vote NO on Amendment 6. You'll write this as an individual, not as a League member. If you're interested, get going on this right now so it will be received prior to the election. The Springfield News-Leader will not print any letters after the Sunday prior to the election. Refer to the email you recently received with the main talking points against Amendment 6. Questions? Contact Leslie at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, November 3, 2015 from 6pm-8pm
First Baptist Church, 525 South Avenue, Springfield
Co-sponsored by the League and Community Partnership of the Ozarks

All politics is local. Come out and hear from the local candidates running for state office. Competition for both seats has been strong as neither incumbent is seeking reelection. Candidates for District 132 are Democrat Crystal Quade, Republican Thomas Quinn and Libertarian Chris Burros. Candidates for District 135 are Democrat Randy Alberhasky, Republican Steve Helms and Libertarian David Carr. League moderator Nora Cox will pose a series of questions to candidates and also allow time for questions from the audience.

VOTERS GUIDE UPDATE

17,000 Voters Guides delivered in 5 days!!! Whew! There were about 25 delivery drivers who swooped in, picked up the guides at the News-Leader at 9am on October 17, and delivered them around Greene and Christian counties the week of October 17th. Debbie Pitts was the coordinator (shall we call her Distribution Debbie?) and gave everyone their list of delivery assignments and sent us on our way. A bonus this year was having guides available in all the surrounding towns such as Ash Grove, Willard, Fair Grove, Strafford, Rogersville, Sparta, Clever, Billings and Republic, all new areas for our guides. Thank you, Debbie, for organizing this monumental delivery project!

We've already received calls from locations who have requested a refill. The guides flew off the shelves and are looked forward to by many voters in our community. Thanks to everyone who took time to deliver the guides and especially for searching out new locations. If you haven't seen a copy, [click here](#) to see the newly redesigned guide.

GREAT TURNOUT AT VOTER ID FORUM

Thanks to all the league members who attended the forum on Amendment 6, the Voter Photo ID issue on the ballot. We had 60 people in attendance and had media coverage by two radio stations, two TV stations, and the News-Leader. Many thanks to the planning committee who pulled off a flawless event!

VOTE411.ORG

Vote411.org was ranked #2 as best online voter resource by LifeHacker.com. It even ranked above Google and FactCheck.org!

IT'S TIME FOR HAPPY HOUR!

We worked hard on **Get Out the Vote** and now its time to celebrate all the League has accomplished during this election season! Come out on **Wednesday, November 9th**...the day after the election...from 5:30-7:30pm for a mix-n-mingle Happy Hour at Nonna's South, 3512 South National (where the Monday night unit meets).

Upcoming Dates

Candidate Forum for Missouri House Districts 132 and 135

Thursday, November 3, 2016; 6pm-8pm
First Baptist Church, 525 South Ave, Springfield

November General Election

Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 6am-7pm
Your local Polling Place

Post-Election Happy Hour

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 5:30pm-7:30pm
Nonna's South, 3512 S National, Springfield

Fall Conference

Saturday, November 12, 2016, 9am-3pm
Sedalia, Missouri

Unit Meetings

Monday, November 21, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
Nonna's South, 3512 S. National
Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 12:00 noon
Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

Annual League Holiday Party

Monday, December 5, 2016; 5:30-8:30pm
Home of Maggie Castrey

2017 Spring Conference

Saturday, April 29, 2017
Location TBA



FALL CONFERENCE

The League’s annual Fall Conference will be held in Sedalia on **Saturday, November 12th** from 9am-3pm. This is a great time to meet league members from across the state and learn more about what makes the League tick. We will take a carload of our League members, so if you’re interested in attending, contact Kelly at kellywood@missouristate.edu or Leslie at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net. Conference registration is paid by our League.

SAVE THE DATE!

We are hosting the League’s state 2017 Spring Conference in Springfield. Save the date of **Saturday, April 29, 2017**. We need members to serve on the Planning Committee, so if you are a Hostess with the Mostess or an event planner at hear, holler and we’ll add you to the committee.

HOORAY!

We received this email from Karen Nicholson, the national Vice President and liason for all the Missouri leagues, after she read our last newsletter: *“I’m always so impressed with all you do! Thank you for your excellent work.”* How great to get a pat on the back from the LWVUS V.P.!

IT’S THE TIME OF YEAR...

It’s time to renew your membership for 2016-17. Please complete the [Membership application](#) and return it, along with your dues, to either the PO Box or bring it to the October unit meeting.

Additionally, please indicate which unit meeting you will be attending. We have an exciting year ahead, full of action. Please indicate your areas of interest at the bottom of the membership form. Your participation is vital to our efforts to educate and inform citizens about active participation in government.

If you have any membership questions, contact Ilga Visa at ivise@drury.edu.

SOCIAL MEDIA BLAST!

The League has been boosting our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter during this election season. We have had 94 people like our Facebook page since October 1st and now have over 500 people that follow our Facebook page.

In addition, we have promoted several posts and events on Facebook. One such post was about the Voters Guide and included a link to an electronic copy. That post alone has

reached over 8,640 people and been shared 140 times. The Voter ID Forum event reached 6,029 people on Facebook and was shared 457 times.

If you are on Facebook, please share these posts on your page or invite your friends to the events. This helps increase our reach to even more individuals!

NEED A LABEL PIN?

The state League has several lapel pins and other League logo items for sale. [Click here](#) to see a list of all the items if you are interested.

IN MEMORIAM

Longtime member Dottie Miller passed away on October 11th after a short battle with cancer. Dottie attended the Monday night unit meetings and was also very involved in Friends of the Library. Our condolences to Dottie’s family.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the League used to host the Presidential Debates?

- Hosted 3 Presidential debates in 1976 between Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford
- Hosted 1 Vice Presidential debate in 1976 between Walter Mondale and Bob Dole.
- Continued to sponsor Presidential and VP debates through 1984.

After 1984, the Democratic and Republican national parties decided to move sponsorship of the debates under the purview of the parties. Between 1985 and 1987, the League challenged this move and sparked widespread public debate on the matter. The LWV argued that a change in sponsorship that put control of the debate format in the hands of the two dominant parties would deprive voters of one of the only chances they had to see the candidates outside of their controlled campaign environment.

In 1987, the parties announced the creation of the Commission on Presidential Debates. The Commission chose the League to sponsor the last presidential debate of 1988, but placed so many rules and restrictions on the possible format of the debate that the League was finally unable to agree to the conditions and chose not to participate. The LWVUS President stated that the League had “no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public.”



MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Synder

Lisa Slattery



If you ask member Lisa Bonacker Slattery what she does, this is the answer you'll get: "I'm a Special Mom and a Professional Volunteer." This is a very short answer for very busy lady. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology at Southwest Missouri State University and earned a Master in Social Work from Loyola in Chicago.

She has used her MSW and LCSW in Psychiatric settings in Illinois and Missouri and private practice, and is currently certified to supervise BSWs and MSWs (social workers) as they earn their clinical licenses.

Outside of her professional capacity, Lisa uses her skills in a variety of ways. She is a full-time caregiver for her 22-year-old son who is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Seizure D/O and Optic Nerve Atrophy. She has founded a support group for families raising children with disabilities, co-founded the first Special Education PTA (SEPTA) in Missouri, and serves as President of Southwest SEPTA. She has also held a variety of positions on PTA boards in her sons' schools. She is active with Crosslines, serving for 3 years as the Volunteer Coordinator for Crosslines Holiday Center, serving on the Advisory Board, and is still active with the Holiday Center and Diaper Bank. Lisa also volunteers for Wesley UMC Missions and is supervising 2 MSWs for their clinical licensure.

In addition to her professional certifications, Lisa says she is a Licensed Plant Killer. However, her current plants are thriving and threatening to cause her to lose her license.

Lisa is obviously passionate about her family and community, and gladly fills her soul with both. She also enjoys reading a variety of books, gleaning recommendations from NPR, friends, family, and sometimes from Facebook posts. She loves to garden, even though she has been afflicted with a "brown thumb." Lisa's second husband has made her into a kayaker, and "re-instilled" her love of camping and hiking. They "honeymoon" every year and travel the United States and are looking forward to his retirement so they can travel all year. They also love movies (especially at the Moxie!) and enjoy long discussions about religion, politics, or beer, all of which likely keep them entertained for quite some time. Lisa has recently been tapping into her creative side with a fireplace mosaic (all the way to the ceiling!), acrylic painting, and hooking rugs.

Someday she hopes to write something...maybe a blog, a book, a novel? We can't wait to find out!

Lisa had 3 boys with her first husband: Mitchell, now 24, Peter, 22, and Daniel who is 20. Mitchell is healthy and happy and always in her heart. Peter requires full care and lives with her. Being his Mom can be overwhelming, but the joy and love he gives her far outweigh any difficulties. Caring for him has made her who she is today. Her youngest son graduated from the IB Program at Central High School last year and is now a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis.

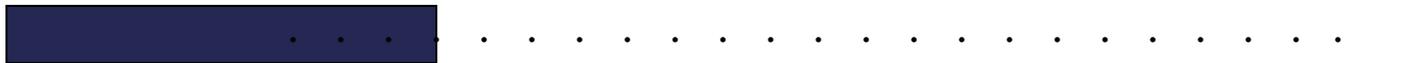
Lisa met her second husband, Fred, on Match.com over 10 years ago and they've now been married for six. Truly, an online success story! Fred convinced her that he was up to the challenge of helping with Peter and has done a great job. He supports her volunteering and she supports his beer brewing. Sounds like a good trade-off to us! When not brewing beer, Fred is the Chief Water Consultant for Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Lisa has a step-son who works for Walmart Corporate Office in Bentonville, Arkansas. Her step-step-daughter is married with 3 children and lives in Arkansas. We have a hunch that some of Lisa's traveling takes her to the Natural State.

Lisa is a reformed cat person, who is now the proud dog-mom of a 2-year-old MiKi named Maya Angelou. She has seen the error of her cat-loving ways, and is thankful for the joy and laughter that Maya brings to their home. Lisa's family is rounded-out by her father, 1 brother, 2 step-sisters and step-mother. Her mother passed away 20 years ago.

Not to just stick with blood-relatives, Lisa has adopted 5 sisters called the CHICKlets, who travel and dine together. These ladies are part of a larger group, the CHICKs (Crazy Hormonally Imbalanced Circle of Kindred Spirits) who have become close friends.

Lisa joined the League because she has always wanted to be an informed voter and encourages her friends to do the same. To help her youngest son prepare for voting, she attended League forums with him. Debbie Good encouraged Lisa to join the League after they met while educating the community about the recent LGBT ballot issue in Springfield. Since her kids were grown and she was done with PTA, Lisa eagerly joined! She is happy to have some incredible women as new friends and has "thoroughly enjoyed helping with the registration of voters and with the Voter's Guide."



Debbie Good



Member Debbie Good is a former 7th grand math teacher, but since she now serves as a substitute, she clearly hasn't given up on middle school students just yet. She earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from Kansas State University and completed education coursework at Drury University. Her other career

experiences included being a veterinary technician, dog groomer, and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited.

Debbie enjoys long-distance hiking, and by that, we mean serious long-distance hiking. The kind that lasts weeks at a time and is often done in a solitary manner. Which makes her pretty awesome. She also likes to run and enjoys live music and dancing. All of which are great, too, but still not as awesome as long-distance hiking.

Debbie's family consists of a variety of human and canine members. Though her oldest son was killed by an inattentive driver in 1998 she is still blessed with 2 other children. Debbie shares her home with her daughter Jamie and Jamie's dog, Cooper. Her youngest son, Danny has a Border Collie named Zeke and a black-and-tan mixed breed dog named Tia. Debbie is recently divorced, but she says "it's all good, I'm having fun."

For those of you who read these biographies, it will be no surprise to find out that Ilga Vise recruited Debbie. In addition to her work with the League, Debbie stays busy volunteering at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, where she was a member of the first volunteer class of 1989. She also serves as co-president of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

