



April 2016 Newsletter

UPCOMING UNIT MEETINGS

April Unit Meetings

The February unit meetings will be **Monday, April 18th** at 5:30pm at Nonna's South, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, April 19th** at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center.

Join us at one of the April unit meetings to hear a presentation on the [Impacting Poverty Commission](#) report. This commission, which was created by the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, has been meeting over the past couple of years to assess the negative impact which poverty has in our community. Many of us do not realize the level of poverty which exists in our area and how it affects all of us in ways we might not realize.

**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.*

CONVOY OF HOPE EVENT

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 10am-4pm
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds E*Plex

Our league will be hosting a voter registration booth at this one-day community support event. We have a few slots open to sever as hosts/greeters at our booth. They are expecting several thousand guests through the doors during this event, so it's important for the League to have a presence and "do our thing" by registering voters. If you'd like to help or want more information, please contact Kelly Wood at kellywood@missouristate.edu.

SCHOOL BOARD FORUM

Over 40 people attended the Springfield Public School Board of Education forum on Tuesday, March 29th. All five candidates for the two positions were in attendance. Special thanks to League member, Nora Cox, for moderating. Thanks to Lisa Slattery, Debbie Pitts, Ilga Vis, Lisa Langley, and Cathy Hukill who helped coordinate and organize the event. Member involvement at every level is what makes this League successful in education and advocating to our voters.

GENERAL MEETING



The LWV General Meeting has been rescheduled for May 5th. It will be held at the MSU Meyer Alumni Center (300 South Jefferson) from 7-9pm. The public is welcome to attend this event.

"Building Collaboration to Meet Mental Health Needs"

Presented by Chief Executive Officer Mike Brose, MSW, and Associate Director & Chief Housing Officer Greg Shinn, MSW, of Mental Health Association Oklahoma, speak nationwide to help communities break down silos and improve mental health services through collaboration. MHAOK originated in 1955 in Tulsa as one of the first mental health advocacy associations in the nation. It currently operates statewide with landmark community cooperation in housing and support programs, operating more than 900 units for people with mental illness.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar now for our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 17th, Drury University Hoblit Suite at 5:30pm social time, 6:00pm dinner. Please note it is a new day and location from past years. Cost for the dinner is \$20. **Please pay by Tuesday, May 10th**. Send your checks, written to LWV of Southwest Missouri, to P.O. Box 3036, Springfield, MO 65808-3036. More information, including directions to the new location on campus, will be sent prior to the dinner.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is please to submit the following slate of candidates who have agreed to new terms to serve our League:

- Co-Presidents: Kelly Wood and Leslie Carrier (1-yr terms)
- Vice President: Debbie Good (1-yr term)
- Treasurer: Cathy Hukill (1-yr term)
- Secretary: Mary Martin (1-yr term)
- Board Director 1: Lorraine Sandstrom (2-yr term; exp. 2018)
- Board Director 2: Mary Byrne (2-yr term; exp. 2018)
- Board Director 3: Kay Chaudhri (2-yr term; exp. 2018)
- Board Director 4: Beverly McCormick (2-yr term; exp. 2018)
- Board Director 5: Lolita Albers (1-yr term; exp. 2017)
- Board Director 6: Belinda Davis (1-yr term; exp. 2017)



PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed budget for 2016-2017 and proposed bylaw changes will be sent out in a separate email in the next week. Please review this information in advance, as we will vote on these items at the Annual Meeting.

OZARKS MENTAL HEALTH CARE NETWORK (OZMHN) NEWS

Two Days of Learning Rescheduled for May 5-6
Open to members of League of Women Voters and Ozarks Mental Health Network.

Presentations by Chief Executive Officer Mike Brose, MSW, and Associate Director & Chief Housing Officer Greg Shinn, MSW, of Mental Health Association Oklahoma. They speak nationwide to help communities break down silos and improve mental health services through collaboration.

[<See full schedule here.>](#)

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Luncheon and afternoon programs at Ozarks Community Hospital.

RSVP required to ozmhnetwork@gmail.com

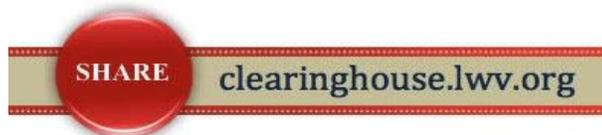
- "Identifying a Need & Initiating a Homeless Program: How it all Began"
- "Breaking Down Silos--Getting Everyone Working Together"
- Evening Public Program at MSU Meyer Alumni Center.

No RSVP

- "Building Collaboration to Meet Mental Health Needs"

Friday, May 6, 2016

Informal Networking Breakfast and Q&A with Tulsa speakers. University Plaza Atrium Grill



The 2013-2015 local study report, *Accessibility and Affordability of Mental Health Services for Adults in Greene County*, has been added to the National League's Education Fund Clearinghouse, which is a site for sharing "League study documents among some 800 national, state and local Leagues and with the public. Leagues can save time by not reinventing study materials and see how other Leagues have approached a tough issue. Leagues can also gain inspiration for program planning. Visitors may download and print the documents. Our study can be found under Social Policy, Mental Health. [Click here for the LWV Clearinghouse](#)

Upcoming Dates

Women's Equality Pay Day

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Location: State Capitol

April Unit Meetings

Monday, April 18, 2016, 5:30pm

Nonna's South, 3512 S. National

Tuesday, April 19, 2016, Noon

Drury University Findlay Student Center

OzMHN Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2016

See more details under OzMHN News section.

Spring Conference

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Columbia, MO

OzMHN Two Days of Learning

Thursday-Friday, May 5 & 6, 2016

See schedule for program times and locations

LWV General Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2016; 7-9pm

MSU Meyer Alumni Center, 300 S. Jefferson

Convoy of Hope Springfield Community Event

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 10am-4pm

Ozark Empire Fairgrounds E*Plex

May Unit Meetings

No unit meetings for May, just the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Location: Drury University Hoblit Suite

Summer Sounding Boards

June 18, June 16 and August 20th

TBA: Location and speakers



RACHEL FARR FITCH AWARD

Rachel Farr Fitch was a league member from St. Louis who was very instrumental in the field of health care services in Missouri. Her work led to the creation of the Missouri Foundation for Health, one of the nation’s largest health care foundations. The League of Women Voters of Missouri has created an award in her name.

This is a state-wide award given out every two years to a deserving project which has improved health care services in Missouri. Our league nominated the recently formed *Ozarks Mental Health Network*, which is the outgrowth of our 2-year study on mental health care, for this award. The recipient will be announced at the Spring Conference on April 30th in Columbia.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members: Nancy Dorman, Lisa McEowen, Sara Lampe, Kelley Still Nichols, Kristi Meredith and Lori McCarty. We look forward to meeting you at an upcoming meeting or event!

VOTERS’ GUIDE CHANGES

The Voters’ Guide is getting a new look! We have a graphic designer who is giving the Voters’ Guide a brand new, fresh, updated look for the November election. We are excited to update this valuable resource and are in the process of contacting sponsors to buy ads in the guide. If you know a business who would like to buy an ad, please contact Leslie at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

PROGRAM POSITIONS

The Program Positions have been revised! Debbie Good took on the huge task of revising our current list of program positions. The previous format was hard to follow and needed to be updated to make it easier to reference. None of the positions or content was changed, just simply the order and category under which things are listed. Debbie is putting the final touches and tweaks to it and we will present the new look at the Annual Meeting. Thank you, Debbie, for a job well done!

COMING IN 2016!

Summer Sounding Board – Remember, we don’t have our usually monthly meetings during June, July and August, but we do have our wildly popular Summer Sounding Board gatherings. These are a casual coffee/brunch gathering held the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30am at a member’s home. Mark these dates down now: June 18, July 16, August 20. More details to come on locations and speakers.

Celebrate the Vote – September 3, 2016. The celebration planned for next September is not for the 100th anniversary of the right to vote (that will be in 2020, as we all know). Rather, this is the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the *Walkless-Talkless Parade*, which took place during the 1916 Democratic National Convention in St. Louis. This was a staged event where thousands of women in white dresses with yellow sashes and umbrellas stood on both sides of the street and formed a “golden lane” that Democratic delegates had to walk through to get to the Convention on its opening day. It was an attempt to draw attention to the suffrage campaign for voting rights for women.

Candidate Forum – October 2016. The Missouri Library Association will be hosting its annual state conference in Springfield in October 2016. They would like to hold a candidate forum for those running for Missouri Secretary of State in the November 2016 election. The Secretary of State’s position is responsible for allocating monies for public libraries.

DID YOU KNOW?



[Marjory Stoneman Douglas](#), (born April 7, 1890, Minneapolis, Minn.—died May 14, 1998, Miami, Fla.), American author and environmentalist who helped dispel the centuries-long revulsion that many had for the Everglades wilderness in southern Florida through her writings and environmental activism.

The daughter of the founding editor of the *Miami Herald*, Douglas wrote books and magazine articles with the intention of changing public perceptions of the attractiveness of the Everglades and of its ecological function as a vast recharge zone for southern Florida’s freshwater supplies.

Not content to watch the battle for the future of the Everglades from the sidelines, Douglas was a leading member of the committee that lobbied for the establishment of Everglades National Park in the 1940s. In 1969, to fight a proposal to build a jetport in the park, she helped to found friends of the Everglades, a conservation group now numbering some 5,000 members.



MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Filbeck

Kelly Wood



Kelly Wood is a professor of Communication at Missouri State University. She says this is her 21st year there, but we don't believe her. She's too young! She is passionate about advising, teaching, mentoring, and improving student retention, so it sounds like she is an all-around great

professor. Her past roles have included Associate Dean, Department Head, and Professor and she currently serves as the Provost Fellow for Student Success. In this position, she works for the Provost on special projects designed to improve student retention. Kelly was a student in Ohio, earning her BA and MA in Communication from the University of Dayton and her PhD in Communication from Ohio State University, which a research emphasis in health communication.

For over 20 years, Kelly has called Springfield home. She and her husband Jay have been married for 7 years, but were together for 11 years before taking the plunge. Kelly says she gained a new family through Jay, since he grew up here. Jay is a talented blacksmith who uses a variety of metals to create ornamental items. In fact, he ran Bass Pro Shops' ornamental metal shop for 18 years before starting his own company in 2009. You can see his craftsmanship on display in the chandeliers, railings, scones, and fireplace screens at our local Bass Pro Shop and Big Cedar Lodge.

Kelly likes to run for "fun and fitness." In particular, she likes trail running and completes 15k and 25k trail runs during the fall. She saves the 10ks and half marathons for other times of the year. She and her husband, Jay, enjoy snow skiing and take an annual spring trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Kelly enjoys traveling and makes the rounds to Michigan, Ohio, Georgia, and Oregon to visit her far-flung family. A fun-fat about Kelly is that she enjoys ballroom and swing dancing.

Kelly joined the League a few years ago, after participating in a Women's Leadership planning committee. She helped plan a series of events that included a photo contest, a student luncheon at MSU, and a guest speaker from Running Start. Through this experience she realized that the League is comprised of great women who are making a difference. So she decided to join the League to be around "smart, productive, curious women." She says it was a great decision and we couldn't agree more!

Susan Rubino

League member Susan Rubino has a BS in Finance and Business from Fontbonne College (now University) and has worked in a variety of positions at several different financial institutions. She started at AG Edwards in the mid-70s and just kept getting more awesome from there.



Susan is very active and has a lot of interest to keep her busy. Weather-permitting, she enjoys riding her bike and particularly likes riding in areas close to wineries. Although the landscape around wineries is surely inviting, this activity likely has another added benefit as well. Susan is also an active gardener, tending several flower beds and an herb garden, along with some tomatoes started from heirloom seeds. She insists she's not a fanatic about heirlooms, but she completed a Master Gardener course, so she must be at least a little authentic!

Susan and her husband, Bob, will soon be celebrating 39 years of wedded bliss! Congratulations to them! They don't have children, but they do have cats to share their home with. Or maybe the cats are just generous enough to allow them to stay? Susan did not mention this in her questionnaire, but I've heard her speak of making authentic Italian food and I suspect she's very good at it. Plus, with the fresh herbs and home-grown tomatoes, it's bound to be tasty!

Susan was a League member in St. Louis in the late 70s and early 80s and originally joined because of the Equal Rights Amendment. Her League experience in St. Louis was so positive that she became a member of our illustrious group after relocation to Southwest Missouri. Thank goodness she was inspired to be a part of our League!

