



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

# June 2016 Newsletter

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

There will be a new member orientation on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Ilga Vise. Email [ivise@drury.edu](mailto:ivise@drury.edu) for direction or if you have questions.

## SUMMER SOUNDING BOARD

Saturday, June 18, 9:30am

Home of Leslie Carrier (directions will be emailed out closer to the date).

Enjoy some coffee and brunch food as we make plans for the “**Get Out the Vote**” fall season and gear up for the November election. There is much to do including new voter registration events, collecting candidate information for the Voters’ Guide, organizing candidate forums and working with the Greene County Clerk’s office on innovating voting reminders. We need input – and help – from everyone to make an impact and do what we do best! Call a league friend and carpool together...the more the merrier!

## HELLO...MY NAME IS...

If you would like a hard plastic name tag with your engraved name and a magnetic backing, please email Diane Davidson by Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at [dianehydedavidson@yahoo.com](mailto:dianehydedavidson@yahoo.com). The cost is \$9.00 and will be payable when you get your name tag. If you would rather have a pin backing, please indicate that to Diane.

## COMING IN 2016!

**Celebrate the Vote** – September 3, 2016. 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.

## TAKE ACTION REMINDER

Based on our [new position on Money in Politics](#), the League has endorsed legislation by Senator Tom Udall (D- NM) that would create a new independent agency to replace the Federal Election Commission. The Federal Election Administration Act of 2016, would restructure the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as a five-member commission. The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. Senate in support of this bill and members of the Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices throughout May. League members can also [contact their members of Congress](#) to address this issue using our latest action alert.

## Upcoming Dates

### New Member Orientation

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm  
Home of Ilga Vise

### National Convention

June 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Washington, D.C.

### Summer Sounding Boards

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am  
Home of Leslie Carrier  
Planning session for Fall Season / Elections

### Summer Sounding Boards

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am  
TBA: Location and speakers

### Summer Sounding Boards

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am  
TBA: Location and speakers

### Celebrate the Vote

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Walkless-Talkless Parade  
Saturday, September 3, 2016

### Naturalization Ceremony

Saturday, September 17, 2016  
MSU Plaster Student Union

### National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

### Secretary of State Candidate Forum

Monday, October 3, 2016; 3:00pm  
University Plaza

# MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Filbeck

*The Ilga Vise recruitment edition.*

## Cathy Galland



New member Cathy Galland has dedicated her career to education. She is certified to teach Secondary English and as a Superintendent in Missouri’s K-12 Schools. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Simpson College in Iowa, a Master’s in Education from Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri, and an EdD in Educational Leadership and Policy

Analysis from the University of Missouri, Columbia. That’s a lot of education!

Cathy put everything she learned to work as an Educator for over 25 years. She taught English to grades 8-12, provided professional development to teachers and administrators, worked as a Director of Curriculum, and worked in various roles at the central office in K-12 education. She is currently working online as a Dissertation Chair for Northcentral University and with students in Brazil through Mizzou’s Global high school program.

Cathy and her husband Mark have been married for 23 years. Together, they have 5 children and 18 grandchildren. Cathy says they keep life exciting, especially since 14 of the grandchildren are boys! Their oldest granddaughter, Jessie, just started basic training in the Army. They have 2 grandsons who are less than a year old, so they get to enjoy all ages and stages of grandchildren. What an impressive family!

In her spare time, Cathy enjoys gardening, reading, hiking, camping, and sailing. We bet she gets to enjoy some of these activities with the kids, too!

Cathy joined the League about a year and a half ago and was recruited by our master Membership Chair, Ilga Vise. These 2 outstanding ladies worked together on the Walkable Neighborhood Project, an effort by the Healthy Living Alliance that was supported by our League. Cathy joined because she believes strongly in the importance of education and the protection of rights for all voters. She is certain to be a strong addition to our group!

## Debbie Pitts



Debbie Pitts is a new member who is this close to retirement. June 30<sup>th</sup> is her official date of freedom, but what did she do to earn it? Most recently she has served as Coordinator, Quality Improvement & Accountability for Springfield Public Schools. Prior to that, she was Coordinator for the Missouri Census Data Center Program in the Secretary of State’s Office in

Jefferson City. Debbie has also been a high school history and dual enrollment teacher at Lebanon High School, in Lebanon, Missouri. She holds a B.S. in Education and an M.A. in History, and is a certified Social Studies teacher (grades 7-12), so it looks like she put her education to good use. And it also appears that she earned her retirement!

Since she holds an advanced degree in History, and has taught it to teenagers, it’s no surprise that Debbie enjoys reading well-researched biographies and history books. She also likes to travel, especially on the East Coast. We can only guess that she enjoys all of the history that part of the country offers!

Debbie enjoys “spending time with creative people who love to learn and explore ideas.” For her, being a League member is so rewarding because she gets “to work with outstanding people who are caring and committed to both their local community and the broader community.” This means Debbie has figured out magic of the League...we are all outstanding!

Debbie is “an only child of an only child” (her mother). Her mom still lives in Lebanon, her hometown, and will turn 90 in July. According to Debbie: “We always say it’s a good thing we get along well, or we would be in trouble!”

So, how did Debbie hear about the League? Once again, it involved Ilga Vise and the Walkable Neighborhood Project! Debbie attended an informational meeting about the project and made a fast connection with Ilga. And like many of us, she was unable to resist Ilga’s invitation to join the League. Debbie already admired the League and had planned to join after retirement, but her chance encounter with Ilga sped up the process. She’s glad it did, and so are we!

