



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

# The Voter

## UNIT MEETINGS

The April unit meetings will be **Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** at Magnia A Nonna's Italian Kitchen, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 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 State Convention for the League of Women Voters of Missouri on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. We need many hands to help welcome league delegates from across the state.

If you can help bring food, contact Joan Gentry at [joangentry2012@gmail.com](mailto:joangentry2012@gmail.com).

If you can help as a food organizer or with registration or to be a greeter either on Friday or Saturday, contact Lorraine Sandstrom at [lsandstrom@gmail.com](mailto:lsandstrom@gmail.com).

You will be receiving information in the mail on registration from the League of Women Voters of Missouri. *Please do not fill this out or send money.* We will send in registration for our local members as a group. If you are interested in attending the Convention, contact Kate Evert at [katee1120@yahoo.com](mailto:katee1120@yahoo.com). Let Kate know which of the events you plan to attend.

A separate email was sent out to all members with additional details about the Convention. If you did not receive the email or have further questions, please contact [lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com).

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

If you missed the New Member Orientation in January, here is your chance to attend on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:00pm, at the home of Lisa Slattery. Pizza and salad will be served. Topics will include League's mission, being a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in government. A brief overview of the League's history and its structure on national, state and local level will be presented. New members will also receive a LWV Handbook. A separate email with directions to Lisa Slattery's home will be sent out.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The League's annual meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 5:30pm on the Drury Campus. Cost is \$20 to attend. Watch for an email soon with more information for the annual meeting, including the proposed budget, bylaw changes, and the nomination slate for the Board of Directors.

## 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.

## UPDATES FROM LEAGUE MEMBERS

Two bills drafted by LWV member Mary Byrne to increase transparency and fiscal accountability of the state government have been referred to the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. Paul Curtman (R-109) is sponsor of HB 1216 which requires the Joint Committee on Education to undertake additional duties related to oversight of the state education system including review of grants for cost-benefit analysis prior to submission to the grant funder. Curtis Trent (R-133) is sponsor of HB 1186 which requires the state board of education to post the Department of Education's budget on the department website and other duties. Hearing dates are TBA.

# MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Synder

## Jeanne Duffey



New member Jeanne Duffey is a well-read Springfield-Greene County Library District retiree. After serving in her ‘dream job,’ as Community Relations Director for almost 25 years, she has joyfully moved on to retirement life. She has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri and a Master’s Degree in

Communications from Missouri State University. Her early career included stints as a reporter for the Columbia Tribune (in Missouri) and as editor of the Wood River Journal (in Illinois). She produced a technical magazine in Champaign, Illinois and worked at various public relations and advertising agencies before landing at the Library.

Gardening is a long-time passion for Jeanne, and since retiring, she says she has “upped my gardening game!” This ‘gardening game’ includes a bi-monthly article for Ozarks Living Magazine, titled *Dig This*. She insists that “retirement is wonderful!” She has time to dance (like the Greeks do!) and listen to friends play music, in addition to playing ping-pong and a variety of other games. Her hobbies include quilting and working with clay, with a few others in between. And just because she doesn’t work at the Library anymore, it doesn’t mean that she doesn’t read. Jeanne makes time for “at least a book or two a week, every genre, and especially nonfiction.” It’s a good thing I’m not retired, because I’m worn out just thinking about all the things she does.

When Jeanne’s not enjoying one of her myriad hobbies, she loves spending time with her husband David (they dance!), her girls, Ellen and Polly, son Andy, grandson Tristan, 15, and granddaughter Ariadne Sofia, 5, and all of her “big fat Greek family.” And more dancing.

Jeanne joined the League to “have a voice in keeping our country and our democracy healthy and inclusive.”

## Carolyn Sauerbrei

New member Carolyn Sauerbrei is a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) who retired as a Hospital Charge nurse after a 15-year career. Besides nursing school, she attended some college. Carolyn includes “Household Engineer” under her educational background, and just like any engineer, I expect she is clever, methodical, and efficient in any task she undertakes.

Carolyn has a wide range of interests to keep her busy. These include gardening, sewing, traveling, and playing cards. She enjoys having company and going to church. Though Carolyn didn’t mention where she likes to travel to, I hope it is relaxing and exotic. Or maybe she prefers exciting and adventurous? Carolyn has also given her time to the Little League, Girl Scouts, and Family Services. Future generations seem to be in good hands with her around.



Though Carolyn is a widow, she has a partner now. Her family includes 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 2 great, great-grandchildren. What a lucky lady to be blessed with so many grandchildren! Perhaps visiting family is where her travels take her?

Carolyn was previously a member of the League in Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas. She decided to join our local league after meeting Mary Martin at the Westside Neighborhood Family Night Out. She was looking for a way to meet interesting people, and I’m sure she accomplished that goal. There’s not a dull lady in this group!

## Ronda Fields



New member Ronda Fields is the Office Manager for Suites Investigations. She is definitely a smart girl, as she graduated Cum Laude from Drury University in 2001 with a degree in Criminal Justice/Criminology.

Ronda stays busy in her spare time with many activities. She is an avid reader, who also enjoys hiking and travel. She is the recording secretary for Drury Women’s Auxiliary and works with the American Cancer Society and Friends of the Library. Ronda completed three 5k races last year for the American Cancer Society, in addition to running the Turkey Trot. She volunteers at the Friends of the Library book sales. And if that’s not enough, she also worked at the Junior Cattle Baron’s Ball and the Cattle Baron’s Ball at the Fairgrounds. With all of this to keep her busy, I hope she has time to rest once in a while!



Ronda lives with her partner, A.L, and their 2 dogs and 1 cat. They have no children of their own, but enjoy their “numerous” nieces, nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews. That’s a lot of nieces and nephew to spoil and then send home to their parents!

Ronda is yet another “Ilga recruit.” Ilga, who was her advisor at Drury, invited her to join the League. Ronda is interested in being more involved in current events and the League seemed like a good fit. Welcome aboard, Ronda!

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Our very own league member, 97-year old Ruth Newton, is featured in the latest issue of “Humans of the Ozarks”, as she talks about what it was like growing up as a woman in Greene County and having the right to vote. Go Ruth, we are all so proud of you!

Check out this article from Springfield News-Leader:

<http://sgfnow.co/2nKEukb>

Humans of the Ozarks: 'And they looked at us and said, ‘Oh, you little ladies, what do you know?’"

## 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).

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Photo ID

Our committee has not met, as we were wanting to first hear from Shane Schoeller at the last unit meeting before we planned future actions. We are not yet at the point of knowing actions, but we will work to bring everyone up to date on the latest photo ID information. We will go over information provided this spring by Missouri Secretary of State Ashcroft in news articles and statements regarding the Photo ID update. The first election where Photo ID will be required will be the August 2017 election. We also plan to

form two subcommittees: (a) education and accountability and (b) advocacy and outreach.

### Environmental Sustainability

The committee is helping to coordinate our April unit speaker, Erick Roberts, regarding the current trash hauler update. The committee agreed to “Adopt-A-Street” section of Sunshine Street, between Fort and Grant, and will do the clean up on that section throughout the year. They are also investigating the current recycling program at the city sports stadiums and the Springfield Public Schools. Next committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm at Panera, 1670 East Battlefield.

### Poverty Committee Report

On Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am, 12 members of the Poverty Committee met at the Fairbank’s Library. Kristina Wilmoth, the manager of the Northwest Project, gave us an overview of the program, which is funded by Drew Lewis Foundation.

On an individual basis, as time permits, please attend some of the regularly scheduled events, to learn more about the Northwest Project.

A Community buffet dinner, free of charge, is served at both schools. On Tuesday, 5:30 pm, at Robberson Elementary School, 1100 E. Kearney Street. On Thursday, 5:30 pm, in the gym, at Fairbanks Elementary School, 1226 N. Broadway.

The first Friday of each month, at 9:00 am—the Fairbanks Community Advisory Board meets in the Library at the school.

We plan to call a meeting of the committee later in April. A survey will go to each member to find out when and what we should do next. If you have any suggestion, please contact Kay Chaudhri, [kay.chaudhri@gmail.com](mailto:kay.chaudhri@gmail.com) or Ilga Vise, [ivise@drury.edu](mailto:ivise@drury.edu)

### Voter Outreach

The Voter Outreach Committee had their second meeting last week. They decided to create a strategic plan focused on increasing voter turnout leading up to the 2018 midterm elections. This plan will include a PR campaign centered around a competition between every Springfield in America to see which city has the highest percentage of voter turnout during the midterm election.



**Legislative Action**

The Legislative Watch group is exploring ways to connect League members with what is going on in the state and federal legislatures. This could include, but is not limited to: arranging speakers for League meetings, identifying existing resources for following legislation, and equipping members with strategies to effectively interact with the legislatures. Currently we are identifying what we should be monitoring in the legislature, according to identified League priorities; how best to do that; and how to get the information about to League members.

As this group is newly formed, the mission and vision is evolving and solidifying in these early meetings. The next meeting will be [Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup>](#) beginning at 5:30pm at Panera Bread (500 South National Avenue). All are welcome and an RSVP is not necessary; however, knowing approximately how many might join would assist with securing adequate accommodations for attendees. Questions and/or comments can be emailed to: [LisaMcEowen@MissouriState.edu](mailto:LisaMcEowen@MissouriState.edu)

**Check this out!** As part of our efforts to equip League members with tools to monitor legislative activity, we will be featuring resources. This month we are highlighting [Empower Missouri](#) (<http://empowermissouri.org/>). They send out weekly legislative updates that focus on bills related to human rights, basic needs and basic fairness. These legislative updates also include calls to action and links to legislatures contact information.

**Publicity and Internal Communications**

The website ([lwvswmo.org](http://lwvswmo.org)) is in the process of being updated, with lots of new information, league history, photos, and relevant links included. Much discussion has also focused on how to provide content for the newsletter and to share writing tasks among committee members to make the job easier for the newsletter editor. We are also developing a universal calendar that will have all league events and other events of interest to members. And finally, we hope to produce a short video about our league, through a service at the Library, which we can use on our website and Facebook pages to educate others about what the League has to offer. The goal is to have all information come “full circle” and be present on all platforms, such as the newsletter, website, Facebook, Twitter, etc, so that anyone looking for information can find it at any of these locations. Watch out, everyone, we are really coming on board with technology, thanks to several young, creative new members who are experts in this area!

