



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

The Voter

UPCOMING UNIT MEETINGS

The April unit meetings will be Monday, April 16th at 5:30pm at Prima's Mexican Grill, 3662 S. Glenstone and Tuesday, April 17th at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

Our speaker for our April meetings is Paige Oxendine, coordinator of the eFactory of Missouri State University. She will speak to us about the Rosie Project of the eFactory. "The goal of Rosie is to help connect, partner, collaborate and continue to increase the support and access to resources for women as it relates to professional development, business assistance and leadership."

For more information about the Rosie Project, <http://efactory.missouristate.edu/introducing-rosie/>.

**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.*

LWVMO SPRING CONFERENCE

The Spring Conference for the League of Women Voters of Missouri will be held on May 5th in Kansas City. Overnight lodging is available on May 4th before the Conference, at a group rate. For more information [click here](#). Contact Kelly Wood at KellyWood@missouristate.edu if you are interested in attending.

LWV BOARD REPORT FOR MARCH 2018

Board members of the LWV of Southwest Missouri met on Monday, March 26, 2018. Our regular agenda included a brief report from the treasurer, membership updates, unit and general meeting planning, updates from board members and their action groups, and upcoming events.

Highlights of the meeting include:

- The Spring State Conference is May 5, in Independence. Contact Kelly if you are interested.
- Upcoming meetings are scheduled or in progress.
 - April: Paige Oxendine from Rosie with an update on 2018 races

- General Meeting: "Poverty Simulation" on April 28th at SCIL. 47 attendees have signed up, but we need at least 50, so continue to spread the word and sign up if you have not already done so. A minimum donation of \$5 is requested.
- Annual Meeting is May 21st. No unit meetings will be held in May.
- Our first ever Political Trivia Night fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, April 6, at the Pitch Pizza and Pub. Check-in begins at 6:30pm; the game will run from 7-9pm. Cost is \$100 per table of 6; or \$20 per person. Total of 10 tables available. Promote event to friends and family. An event has been set up on Facebook. Please share as tickets are still available. If you would like to volunteer, contact Nora Cox,
- The League had a Voter Registration table at the March for Our Lives event on March 24th. Joan staffed a forum at Central High School the week prior and registered 12 students. The County Clerk registered more during the lunch period on March 23rd. The board decided to have a booth at ArtsFest, May 5-6. Volunteers will be needed for both days, divided into 2 shifts. May also want to include registrars from Christian and Webster counties. Contact Lorraine if interested in volunteering.
- The next Voter's Guide planning meeting was March 29th. Please contact Lorraine if you would like to assist this year. Volunteers are needed to answer phones at KSMU on April 23rd and OPT on May 10th. Contact Lorraine if interested. The League website has recently been updated. The landing page promotes the Trivia Night. All newsletters are available on the site as well. Send suggestions or feedback to Lee Ann Worman.

Next board meeting is Monday, April 30, 2018.

MISSED MARCH'S UNIT MEETINGS?

Jonathan Groves presented the Community Focus report at the March unit meetings. He was kind enough to share his presentation with us. If you missed his talk or would just like to review the information again, [click here](#) to access a PDF of the presentation.

STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

by: Jeanne Duffey

Forty-Seven League members and friends have registered to attend the Saturday, April 28th, Poverty Simulation, and there's still room for a few more! The three-hour morning event, hosted by OACAC, is planned to sensitize people to the realities faced by those who live in poverty.

The event at the Southwest Center for Independent Living, 2864 S. Nettleton Ave, in Springfield, begins with registration at 8:30am. The simulation will be held from 9am until 11am followed by a working lunch catered by the Victory Mission.

OACAC staffers, some of whom have had personal experiences that enable them to be especially effective in portraying a given role, are seated at tables around the perimeter and represent community resources and services, such as a bank, super center, employer, utility company, pawn brokers and others. Participants assume the roles of different families facing poverty.

"The simulation allows you to see people in a different light," said Martee Robinson, one of the organizers of the event. "It gives you a different depth of understanding. It's not depressing, it's enlightening and invigorating."

A general meeting will begin at 11 a.m. and last until noon. Representatives from the Drew Lewis Foundation will discuss League sponsorship of a family in the community, followed by a brief overview of the status of proposed state legislation on payday loans.

The League is asking for a \$5 per person minimum donation to offset the cost of the event. Sign-up sheets will be distributed at unit meetings. Or, you can notify Ilga Vise at 417.883.7817 or ivise@drury.edu, or Kay Chaudhri at 417.883.5095 or kay.chaudhri@gmail.com.

ARTSFEST BOOTH

Our League will have a booth at Artsfest on Walnut Street on May 5 and 6. We will register voters and have a fun "voting" activity for children. We still need a few more volunteers, specifically on Saturday, May 5, from 11:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, May 6, from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Contact Lorraine Sandstrom at lcsandstrom@gmail.com if you can help.

LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES

Political Trivia Night

Friday, April 6th, 7-9:30pm
The Pitch Pub & Pizzeria

Equity Action Day

Tuesday, April 19th, 9:30am-3pm
State Capitol Building, Jefferson City

Unit Meetings

April 16th, 5:30pm at Prima's
April 17th, noon at Drury Findley Student Ctr

Voter Deputy Registrar Training, Greene Co.

Thursday, April 19th at 10am
Wednesday, April 25th at 5:30pm
Location TBA

General Meeting – Poverty Simulation

Saturday, April 28th, 9am-11am
Southwest Center for Independent Living

LWVSWMO Board Meeting

Monday, April 30th

LWVSWMO Annual Meeting

Monday, May 21st

LWVMO Spring Convention

Saturday, May 5, 2018
Kansas City, MO

ArtsFest (League Booth)

May 5th and 6th
Walnut Street, Springfield

LWVUS Convention

June 28-July 1, 2018
Chicago, IL



VOTER ADVOCACY & PROTECTION ACTION GROUP

The Voter Advocacy and Protection action group met March 28th. Several members have signed up to attend a Drug Court session as well as the next Drug Court graduation. Actions for the future include issue oriented card writing, meeting with Yolanda Lorge concerning the Spanish wallet card and working on a "Voting Matters" presentation. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 5:30, Pitch Pizza and Pub.

UPDATE FROM MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION TELECONFERENCE, MARCH 20

1. Legal Action - A brief is to be filed in court on behalf of NAACP and LWVMO alleging that the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices are not doing their jobs in terms of offering voter registration or updating name and address changes to the registration database or information on the Photo Voter Law. The action will be directed against the Secretary of State with allegations that, as the chief elections office of the state, he has not been doing his job. This is the follow up to the original Photo Voter litigation that was dismissed by the judge.

2. Legal Action - A second lawsuit, being prepared by the ACLU and Demos on behalf of several organizations, including the LWVMO, alleges that Missouri is not in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) in that the DMV's are not automatically updating voter registration data. This suit specifically represents St. Louis and Kansas City.

3. Legislative update: SB 893 and HR 1289 - will reduce and number of initiative petitions and referendums filed by charging a filing fee of \$500.00 and charging a fee of \$.80/signature on those signatures collected by paid signature collectors. The state claims it will stop frivolous petitions. Some of the fees collected will be used to reimburse local election authorities that have had to verify signatures. The ACLU contends that the fees charged will cause a hardship on those citizens who wish to participate in the process.

4. A St. Louis city alderman has proposed that landlords provide new clients with voter registration cards as a part of the rental/lease process. The purpose would be to make it easier for those who move to keep their voter registrations up to date. The client would be responsible for sending the card to the appropriate office.

VOTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Voter Outreach Action Group, chaired by Vivian Wheeler, is moving forward towards our goal of increasing voter turnout. Names have been submitted to Marc Maness of Human Centered Design. He will interview these young citizens about their voting habits. We will get his report and use it to help target young voters. We are also ready to send a letter to other Springfield's in the United States to challenge them to also try to increase their voter turnout for the November Midterms. The winner gets bragging rights!

VOTERS' GUIDE

The 2018 Voters Guide for the November Midterm Election is moving forward. Changes are being made to the ad gathering process including a new invoicing system which will help both the League and the businesses. Kelly Wood and Lorraine Sandstrom will be meeting with the Webster County Clerk about getting Webster County candidates and ballot issues included, adding the to the information included from Greene and Christian counties. Kate Evert has agreed to handle getting information on to Vote411.org. One exciting change this year is that Kate will be uploading information from all the primary candidates into Vote411.org. We want to continue to get this excellent resource as the go-to site for voter information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Since the fall of 2017, 25 new members have joined the League. On Sunday, February 25th, New Member Orientation was held at the home of Leslie Carrier. It was billed as "Tea at Two – Getting to Know You," where highlights of the League's non-partisan mission, history and organizational structure were covered. Presenters included Co-Presidents, Kelly Wood and Lorraine Sandstrom, Angie Snyder (Board Secretary), Ilga Vise (Membership Co-Chair), Lee Ann Worman (PR Committee Member) and Leslie Carrier (Radio Committee Chair).

The following new members attended and gave their reason for joining the League: Abby Callen, Bridget Dierks, Donna Dudenhoeffer, Ellen Duval, Jane Earnhart, Shawn Finger, Katie Gilbert, Sherry Irwin, Jenness LaPage, Edna Payton, Shane Schoeller, Margery West, Ann Youngs.

EQUITY ACTION DAY

Tuesday, April 10th at the State Capitol Building in Jefferson City. For more information, to register, and to order lunch, contact: Pat Shores, aptriciashores@att.net.

- 10:00 a.m. – Legislative Briefing, House Hearing Room 2
- 1:00 p.m. – Citizen Lobbying
- 2:30 p.m. – Wrap Up, House Hearing Room 2



CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO!

Please click the link below to view our new video, "Why Join the League?" It will be posted on Social Media in the next few days so please share it!

[Why Join the League?](#)

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Joan Gentry, Lisa Slattery, Jessica Balisle and Lorraine Sandstrom represented the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri at the March 24th March for Our Lives on the square in downtown Springfield, MO. We were one of several organizations thanked during the rally for our support and invited to talk. Jessica Balisle, League member, talked to the crowd about the League's goals to register eligible voters, encourage voters to become informed and to vote if we want change. Our League also had a table to register voters and to answer questions about the process.



VOTER DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAINING

The Greene County Clerk's office will be offering Voter Deputy Registrar training on Thursday, April 19th at 10am and on Wednesday, April 25th at 5:30pm. This will be open to all League members who reside in Greene County and who wish to be able to register new voters.

To register for April 19th: <http://whoozin.com/AHJ-HPM-9JEW>
To register for April 25th: <http://whoozin.com/PFN-ARD-QFXA>

LEAGUE NAMETAGS

If you would like a League nametag, call John at Springfield Stamp & Engraving, 417-881-8828. They have the template and logo for the nametag and it usually takes about 1-2 days to complete. The nametags are \$9 each. Springfield Stamp & Engraving is located at 1416 S. Glenstone, near the Glenstone Station Post Office.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nora Cox is a native of Michigan, but she has lived in a number of places, such as Chicago. Nora moved to Springfield with her husband, Chris, in 1994. She has a Master's degree in Communication and teaches at MSU, where she is part of the Communication Department and teaches courses such as Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, and Gender and Communication.



One of Nora's most engaging hobbies is gardening. She is a Greene County Master Gardener, which means she is involved in many aspects of gardening, such as teaching continuing education seminars on gardening and landscaping, and working on improving landscaping in and around the Springfield area. Someday Nora would like to visit gardens in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Nora says, "My favorite part of gardening is the possibility of learning more every time I work outside. Nora is also an avid knitter, although she says she is relatively new to this hobby. It seems she has only been knitting for a few years, but she is able to make hats, which seems pretty impressive!

Like many of our current members, Nora joined the League of Women Voters because, although she is a frequent voter, she wanted the chance to be more involved in the democratic process.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Know your branches of government? Can you name all the Supreme Court Justices? Then sharpen your political trivia skills, get your team together, and join us for "**EVERYTHING'S POLITICAL!**", the first trivia night in support of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri. This is an all-ages evening of good natured, high spirited, non-partisan fun with your Trivia Master, Beth Domann (Executive Director of Springfield Little Theater and all-round hilarious human being)!

Join us **April 6th!** Doors open at 6:30 pm, game starts at 7:00 pm. A special event-priced Pizza and Salad Bar will be available as well as a cash bar. The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri thanks The Pitch Pizza & Pub for hosting this event.

[Click Here](#) for Tickets

