



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

August 2016 Newsletter

SUMMER SOUNDING BOARD

Saturday, August 20th, 9:30am

Home of Joyce Pyle (directions will be emailed out closer to the date).

Join us to mix, mingle, and get an update on all the *Get Out the Vote* action team plans for this fall. We have a lot going on and will need help on many dates for many projects. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work!"

GET OUT THE VOTE TEAMS

We have 5 action teams lined up to work on plans and events leading up to the November election: Voter Registration, Voters' Guide, Candidate & Issue Forums, Media/Publicity, and Get Out the Vote. Each of these teams are in the process of developing their plan of action and how best to maximize efforts in our community.

We hope to focus these efforts in conjunction with other groups and non-profit organizations in the *Zone 1 Blitz*. This is an effort organized by the City of Springfield to improve all services, including low voter turnout, in the northwest quadrant of the city. There is plenty of work to be shared, so if you have not yet joined one of these groups and would like to get involved, please contact Leslie Carrier at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

DEPUTY TRAINING

If you would like to be deputized to help with voter registration in Greene County (you must be a Greene County resident), contact Kelly Wood at KellyWood@MissouriState.edu. The next training date will be Wednesday, August 10th at the Greene County Clerk's office and the time will be announced soon. It takes about 30-45 minutes for the training.

VOTERS' GUIDE

The Voter's Guide team is hard at work selling ads to help with the cost of producing the 10,000 copies to be distributed around Greene and Christian Counties. The guide will be available to the public beginning around October 17th. If you know of a business who would be interested in buying an ad, contact Lisa Slattery at lisa@icanlaff.com. We are very excited to debut the jazzy new look, as it's a super update and very eye-catching!

VOTE411.ORG

Cathy Galland is hard at work on the Vote411.org website. This is a digital voters' guide which is an easy to use source for nonpartisan information about the candidates and ballot issues for the November election. All local and state candidates will be invited to submit their campaign information and answer a few questions about why they are seeking the office. You can type in your address and a sample ballot will be produced for your particular precinct. You can then review the candidates and print out the information to take with you on election day. The site should go live by the end of September and we will keep you updates as this moves forward.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Our League is again participating in this year's Naturalization Ceremony to register new citizens to vote! Just for this year, the location and date have changed to coincide with the National Park's centennial. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, August 25th at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Kelly Wood at KellyWood@MissouriState.edu to sign up to register new citizens to vote.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Tuesday, September 27th is National Voter Registration Day, all across the county. We have a team doing voter registration at the Christian County Library from 3-7pm and will have other locations set up in Springfield. If you are able to help that day, contact Kelly Wood at KellyWood@MissouriState.edu. Please join your fellow league members and help us make these events successful. Even if you are not deputized, we need volunteers for the tables to greet people and encourage them to register. Join us!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

If you missed out on ordering a plastic magnetic name tag but would still like one, you can place your own order at Springfield Stamp & Engraving, 1416 South Glenstone, 881-8828. You can call and just tell them you need a League nametag. They have the set-up and it will be done in a day or two and the cost is \$9.00. They are located in a small strip center on the east side of Glenstone in front of the Glenstone Station Post Office location.

ADVOCACY - VOTER ID

The August 2nd primary is approaching quickly! We are encouraging you take some time at your neighborhood polling place to educate voters about a constitutional measure on the ballot requiring voter photo identification. This amendment disproportionately affects women, seniors, African Americans, and disabled citizens. By limiting the number of acceptable forms of ID, this narrows the electorate, imposes an extra cost to taxpayers, and interrupts a fundamental right guaranteed in our constitution. The League of Women Voters took a strong stance against the measure, and are working as a part of the Voter Protection Coalition to advocate for fair and equal elections.

A proposed constitutional amendment will be on the ballot in November that would allow a photo ID requirement to vote, weakening the voting protections in the Missouri Constitution. The right to vote is a fundamental right in Missouri. The Missouri Supreme Court has ruled that a photo ID requirement is “a heavy and substantial burden” on the right to vote. The proposed constitutional amendment would weaken the voting protections in the constitution. This is the first electoral effort nationwide that would weaken a constitutionally recognized right to vote.

The question on the ballot will read: “*Shall the Constitution of Missouri be amended to state that voters may be required by law, which may be subject to exception, to verify one’s identity, citizenship, and residence by presenting identification that may include valid government-issued photo identification?*”

To interact successfully with voters and begin to educate them about the Constitutional Amendment 6 which will be on the November ballot here’s your guide to VOTER CONVERSATION AT THE POLLS.

- Thank voters for casting a ballot
- Reinforce the idea of the importance of voting
- Remind voters that elections should be free, fair, and accessible to all
- Praise voters for participating in the constitutionally protected election process
- Tell voters that Amendment 6 on Voter Photo ID will be on the November ballot. It would jeopardize this right and that the League is opposed to it.
- Have a sign-up sheet that they can put their contact info on if they want us to send them more information.

Remember: All interaction **must take place 25 feet away** from the polling place entrance. It is also recommended to bring sunscreen, a hat, and water while you volunteer.

MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Filbeck

Marjorie (Marge) Bramer



League member Marge Bramer is retired from a long career in education. After spending 5 years as a Computer Systems Analyst for the Department of the Army in St. Louis, she became a teacher for the next 41 years! She holds a Bachelor of Arts from DePauw University, with majors in history and

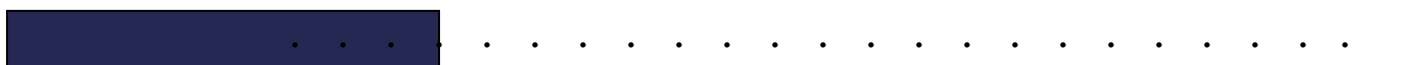
political science, and even spent a semester at University of Hawaii (lucky girl!). Later, she earned a Master’s in Education from Drury University.

Marge met her husband in St. Louis and they have now been married for 49 years. They have 2 children and are the proud grandparents of 5 “wonderful” grandkids. That description of her grandkids might be biased, however, we suspect she’s right.

Marge’s past adventures include snorkeling, parasailing, and hot-air ballooning and she is a long-time, but former, golfer. She now passes her time volunteering at Crosslines and Bill’s Place.

Marge is a repeat offender when it comes to the League. She first joined in 1973, but although she enjoyed meeting with other women who shared her interest in our democratic process and community involvement, the demands of working, taking night classes, and raising children caused her to drop out. Last year she accepted Susan Rubino’s invitation to attend a meeting and ended up joining for a second time.

A life-long interest in our political system influenced Marge’s decision to join the League. As a child, her dad worked for the federal government and often took trips to Washington, D.C. She and her mom would sometimes tag along and spend their days touring the city. When she was 8, she even got to sit at the desk of Associate Justice Sherman Minton of the Supreme Court! As a life-long friend of her dad’s, Justice Minton allowed her to sit at his desk and then explored the building with her family. In 1960, at the age of 16, Marge volunteered for John F. Kennedy’s campaign. Each day, all summer long, she rode a Greyhound bus 30 miles to downtown Indianapolis to do her part. She has also been a national member of NOW for 50 years.



Marge has always been interested in women’s rights, and feels that the rights of women, minorities, the poor, and the disenfranchised are all under attack in our country. She hopes that as a League member, she can “work to ensure that their interests and their voices are heard and that the rights of all citizens are protected.” Thanks for joining us again, Marge!

CELEBRATE THE VOTE FESTIVAL

Join the fun and hop in the car with other League members who will be attending the Septebmer 3rd “Celebrate the Vote” event in St. Louis from 10am-2pm. We have 5 members already signed up to attend, so the more the merrier!

The celebration brochure states: *This is a parade and festival celebrating the centennial of the St. Louis Suffragists of 1916 and honoring the women of today. In 1916, over 3000 suffragists converged on St. Louis in the sweltering heat of the Democratic convention to re-nominate Woodrow Wilson as President. Their sole demand was a plank in the party platform in support of women’s suffrage. Wearing white dresses and yellow sashes that said “Votes for Women”, they lined the street where the delegates would walk from their hotel to the convention center. The impact of these women, who formed the “walkless-talkless parade,” sometimes caled “The Golden Lane”, was enormous as they accomplished their objective and got the plank on the platform.*

More information about the festival can be found at http://lwwstl.org/ctv_festival.html or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CelebratetheVoteFestival/>.

SAVE THE DATE

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.

Upcoming Dates

Primary Election

Tuesday, August 2nd, 6am-7pm
Your local polling place

Deputy Training for Voter Registration

Wednesday, August 10th, time TBA
Greene County Clerk’s Office

LWVSWMO Board Meeting

Monday, August 15th, 5:30pm
Location TBA

Summer Sounding Boards

Saturday, August 20th, 9:30am
TBA: Location and speakers

Naturalization Ceremony

Thursday, August 25th, 10:00am
Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

Celebrate the Vote

100th Anniversary of the Walkless-Talkless Parade
Saturday, September 3, 2016
St. Louis, MO

Rock the Vote

Saturday, September 10th, time TBA
The Library Center

Naturalization Ceremony - CANCELLED

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

Last day to Register to Vote for Nov. Election

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

November General Election

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

