



The Voter

NEW GUIDANCE FROM BOARD

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri has adopted the following guidelines for soliciting signatures on petitions at League meetings or events.

The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri (LWVSWMO) wishes to respect the interests and activism of its members in a manner that serves both the organization and its members.

With this in mind, LWVSWMO has agreed on the following guidelines for petition circulation and signing at League membership meetings and events:

1. In order to ensure that the petition being circulated is consistent with LWV values and policies, the draft petition must be submitted at least 7 days prior to a meeting or event to the Co-Presidents of the LWVSWMO or their delegate for review and a determination of whether the petition meets League guidelines and policies. The Co-Presidents or delegate will advise the member who submits the proposal of their decision prior to the meeting or event.
2. Only League members will be permitted to circulate and seek signatures on petitions at LWVSWMO meetings and events. A League member may sponsor another person to attend the meeting or event in order to provide more information about the petition being presented.
3. At the meeting or event an announcement will be made by the chair/moderator that the petition is available for review and signature at a designated "Petition" table. Time may be provided on the agenda for information or questions about the issue.
4. Signatures on petitions may be sought by individual approach to members before call to order or after adjournment at any meeting or event.
5. Any questions about this policy should be directed to either of the Co-Presidents.

Approved by LWVSWMO Board of Directors
November 27, 2017

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

VOTER ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION

By: Joan Gentry

Despite cold, rainy and windy weather, League members and volunteer MSU students conducted voter exit interviews during the Nov. 7th election held in Greene County. These interviews were conducted as a part of a continuing effort by the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition to determine the

impact the 2017 Photo Voter Law has on voters. The results were shared with the Greene County Clerk's Office and the Coalition. Two hundred thirty-one voters were interviewed. Eight polling locations were surveyed, with all four City Council Zones and the county represented. Voter turnout, countywide, was 14%. As a result of the interviews, two recommendations were made to the County Clerk: 1) To continue providing and improving the Voter ID information campaign, and 2) To ensure that the DMV is doing what is necessary to provide IDs in a timely fashion. More interviews will be conducted as we move into the 2018 election cycle.

In the near future, when a person registers at one of the Greene County Libraries, that person will also receive one of our wallet sized voter information cards.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 24, at 5:30, location to be announced. Members of our group have been collecting voter advocacy and protection ideas from other leagues, and monitoring state and national voter suppression actions. Join us as we make plans for future actions.

PR AND COMMUNICATIONS

By: Ann Elwell

Look for improvements on our League's website and Facebook pages in the New Year as the PR and Communications Committee initiates some exciting changes.

In December, the board approved funds to upgrade our website (lwvswmo.org) to a platform called MyLO or My League Online. The design of MyLO is optimized for whatever device is being used to view it. This means that a site will look different on a mobile phone vs. a tablet vs. a desktop computer, and will fill each space appropriately. This is important because more users are coming to sites using mobile devices than ever before, and the numbers are increasing. MyLO also will offer new tools to increase engagement for League members and other visitors.

Other features will make it easier to manage the site. For an organization run entirely by volunteers, this is critical. Camille DeLaurier has been hard at work over the last few months, updating text and photos. In the coming year, she'll head up our effort to migrate content to MyLO from our current platform.

On our Facebook page, you can already find fresh and interesting content, coordinated by Aimee Nichols. In 2018, we'll be adding a couple of videos to spark new interest in the League.

One will focus on Why Join the League? In quick succession members of diverse ages, backgrounds and lengths of

membership will tell why they became League members—and why they renew each year. The intent is to generate new members. A second video called Who is the League? will explain our mission and goals.

Both videos will be visible on our website as well and possibly at some of our programs. Jeanne Duffey is heading this project; she has recruited Clayton Baumgarth, a Drury communications major, as videographer.

You've been receiving reminder emails on our new platform MailChimp. Member Lee Ann Worman continues to improve these important communications.

The PR Committee has been meeting monthly, and plans to create a strategic communications plan in early 2018. Other members are Leslie Carrier, Ann Elwell, and Chloe Slater.

WALKING TOWARD AMERICA

Come see the play, based on her memoirs, about long time League member Ilga Vise's early life story and her family's escape from Latvia. "Walking Toward America" will be performed at the Springfield Contemporary Theatre in January. It's a one-woman show, performed by former Springfield resident Annie Meeks Montgomery, who also performed this play off Broadway in 2015.

Ilga Vise, a longtime Springfield resident, is brought to the stage by another Springfield native, Annie Meek-Montgomery. At the center of her narrative is the winter of 1944–1945, when 10-year-old Ilga and her parents leave Latvia to escape the Russian occupation of their city. Soon they are taken into a German forced-labor camp and, eventually, walk 500 miles across frozen, war-torn northern Germany, survive strafing by Russian planes and find their way to a refugee camp in western Germany, later sailing through an Atlantic storm to safety and freedom in America.

Tickets are \$22 and will go on sale on December 5. Share this info and bring a friend!

Springfield Contemporary Theatre
JANUARY 5, 6 & 13, 2018 at 7:30 PM
JANUARY 7 & 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Box Office: [417-831-8001](tel:417-831-8001)
Box Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM
<http://www.springfieldcontemporarytheatre.org/missouri-solo-play-festival-walking-toward-america-ill-eat-you-last-grounded--here-there-and-everywhere.html>

MEET THE LEAGUE

By Pam Shaver

Crystal Brigman Mahaney



Our League is truly blessed to have so many accomplished women in our ranks, and Crystal Brigman Mahaney is no exception. Health care has certainly been a topic on our minds this year, and Crystal has been a leading advocate for this cause for many years. She is the Deputy Director with Missouri

Health Care for All, defined by Crystal as "our statewide, nonpartisan, grassroots, advocacy movement for quality, affordable health care for all Missourians." As of January 2018, she will have served for twelve legislative sessions in Missouri.

Crystal came to this profession well qualified, with a Bachelor of Arts in Socio-Political Communication and a minor in Political Science from Missouri State University. Although she has spent many years dedicated to social justice causes, Crystal does have some personal interests that demonstrate her love of physical activity. For example, she loves biking and has been involved in powerlifting for the past four years. Previously, she spent four years as part of Springfield's competitive Women's Flat Track Roller Derby league, which has competed in locations throughout the Midwest. Little did we know what a fighter we have in our midst!

However, Crystal also enjoys the more mundane joys of life, such as watching "an absurd amount of television," enjoying various political and comedic podcasts with her husband and her pets, a beagle named Eleanor Roosevelt, and two cats - Rufio and Kittyface. She grew up in Aurora, and has lived in Springfield for fifteen years. She came to our League when she was interning with Planned Parenthood in 2006 and Kay Murnan approached her with this offer: "If I pay your dues, will you come to the meetings?" Crystal not only joined the LOWV, she was our moderator for the 2016 forum over Amendment 6, the Photo Voter ID bill, and she has also become a part of the Radio Program Committee and contributed to KSMU in a new way. We are so grateful she took Kay's little bribe and became such a valuable member of our League!



GENERAL MEETING

The League hosted a general meeting on November 18th at the Southwest Center for Independent Living. Our speaker was Commissioner Peggy Davis of the Greene County Drug Court.



OMHN EVENT

OMHN hosted a welcome to the new Burrell CEO on November 7th at the Springfield Art Museum. There were over 35 in attendance. Lisa Hall hosted the event and there were several other league members present.



LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES

League Holiday Party

Monday, December 4 at 5:30pm
Maggie Castrey's House

Walk Toward America

Springfield Contemporary Theatre
January 5, 6 & 13, 2018 at 7:30 PM
January 7 & 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Voter Advocacy & Protection Committee Mtg

Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30pm
Location TBA

LWVMO Spring Convention

Saturday, May 5, 2018
Kansas City, MO

LWVUS Convention

June 28-July 1, 2018
Chicago, IL

