



The Voter

UPCOMING UNIT MEETINGS

The January unit meetings will be Monday, January 15th at 5:30pm at Prima's Mexican Grill, 3662 S. Glenstone and Tuesday, January 16th at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

Our January unit meetings are our opportunity to talk about thoughts on potential goals and to give recommendations about what programs to plan for the upcoming year. We need your ideas on how to make those goals happen through our existing action groups, potential new groups, and events and activities designed to get out the vote for the 2018 mid-term elections and beyond. We especially want to encourage new members to jump in with both feet and help build momentum for the year to come!

The programs we will be discussing will work in concert with the efforts of the League on a national level. The [Program Planning Leaders' Guide](#) is now available with an introductory letter from LWVUS President Chris Carson. Responses from local and state Leagues and ILOs are due by March 1, 2018. Program planning will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at Convention 2018 in Chicago, IL.

The February unit meetings will be Monday, February 19th at 5:30pm at Prima's Mexican Grill, 3662 S. Glenstone and Tuesday, February 20th at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

Our speaker will be James Owen from Renew Missouri. Renew Missouri is a not-for-profit organization committed to renewable energy and energy efficiency policy throughout the state. The group advocates on these issues before the Missouri Legislature, the Public Service Commission (which regulates privately-owned utilities), county commissions, and city halls all over Missouri.

James Owen joined Renew Missouri as its Executive Director in 2017. Prior to this, he was Missouri's Public Counsel where he represented Missouri ratepayers before the Public Service Commission. Prior to this, he worked for the Nixon administration to create an office to monitor and enforce high-risk contracts between the state and private businesses. Before this, he was an Associate Circuit Judge in Webster County. He hails from the SW Missouri area, being born and raised in Webster County as well as operating a private practice in Springfield for eight years.

**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.

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>

TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date: April 6, 2018, 7-9:30pm

Political Trivia Night at the Pitch Pub benefiting the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri. More information to come in the February Newsletter.

Save the
Date

TRIVIA
NIGHT

MEET THE LEAGUE

By Pam Shaver

Diane Stalder



The League of Women Voters is privileged to have gained so many gifted new members in the past year, and Diane Stalder is certainly no exception. Diane is a retired teacher who received her undergraduate degree from University of Missouri, St. Louis, and her graduate degree from University of Central Missouri.

She taught for 33 years, with the last 15 years in Ozark, where she worked with ADHD and LD students, all "very wonderful people." Diane has been married to her husband, Kent, for 41 years, and they are proud to claim two wonderful adult children and three beautiful grandchildren.

Like so many of us, since retirement Diane's interests have definitely focused on politics. She is currently President of the Democrat Club of Christian County, Vice Chair of the Christian County Democratic Central Committee, Chair of the Speaker Committee of the Democratic Alliance, Social Chair for the Springfield Symphony Guild, and a member of MOMs Demand Action For Gun Sense in America. She says she joined these organizations that "help to make our lives and our community better."

Although Diane has only been a member of the League for about a year, she sees our group as an essential organization which can address the concern that many of the civil rights of groups in our country, such as those of women and workers, as well as those of voters, are being stripped away. There are many important political issues, but Diane believes that all qualified citizens should have the ability to vote, that accurate information on candidates and issues is easily accessible, and that no foreign country is able to compromise our democracy. We can count on members such as Diane to protect those rights in the days, months, and years to come.

POLICY UPDATES

Two new policies were approved at the November 27th Board of the LWV of Southwest Missouri.

Nonpartisan Policy of Southwest Missouri League of Women Voters [\(click here for full policy\)](#)

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri (herein LWVSWMO or League) is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. LWVSWMO does not support or

oppose any political party or candidate. LWVSWMO is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after study and agreement. The nonpartisanship of LWVSWMO is the foundation of our public credibility and must be carefully maintained. The objective of this policy is to prevent actual or apparent conflict in the eyes of the public.

League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri Guidelines for Solicitation of Signatures on Petitions

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: [\(click here for full policy\)](#)

LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES

Walk Toward America

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

Unit Meetings

January 15th, 5:30pm at Prima's
January 16th, noon at Drury Findley Student Ctr
February 19th, 5:30pm at Prima's
February 20th, noon at Drury Findley Student Ctr

Voter Advocacy & Protection Committee Mtg

Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30pm
Location TBA

Political Trivia Night

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

LWVMO Spring Convention

Saturday, May 5, 2018
Kansas City, MO

LWVUS Convention

June 28-July 1, 2018
Chicago, IL

