



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

The Voter

LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for was held on May 21st at Drury University Hoblit Suite. New Board members were voted in and the proposed budget for 2018-2019 was approved.

The following were approved for the 2018-2019 term:

- Co-Presidents (2-year term & 1-year term) Lorraine Sandstrom / Angie Synder
- Vice President (1-year term) Ruthie Walker
- Treasurer (1-year term) Bev Reichert
- Secretary (2-year term) Jane Earnhart
- Directors: (New) Randy Hoops, Teresa Pope, Katie Gilbert, Vivian Wheeler; (Returning) Kate Evert, Joan Gentry, Lee Ann Worman

STATE BOARD REPORT

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Missouri increased by 130 members this year, from 673 to 803, an increase of 19%! Not only are the numbers growing, but each local League, as well as the state League, have been active and committed to the League goals of encouraging informed and active participation in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

We have filed two lawsuits against the state of Missouri. One, regarding voter photo ID, asserts that the state is not fulfilling its responsibilities in providing the required education. The second, filed recently, comes after months of advocating with both the Secretary of State and the DMV to comply with the 1993 National Voter Registration Act.

We have a new office manager, Jean Dugan, who is experienced and well-qualified. In the coming year, we can anticipate receiving more help in coordination and sharing among various local Leagues and between the State and Local Leagues.

We are increasing efforts to work with high schools, from the state level, and through local Leagues, to register first-time voters.

Our local League shared with other Leagues the wallet cards for photo ID, in both English and Spanish.

We will hold statewide forums for the two statewide offices (auditor and U.S. Senator). At the candidates' choice, the forums will be held in Kansas City, St. Louis, or both.

We are improving our financial structure and reporting to assure oversight and clear communication. We will continue to seek grants and other resources to help local Leagues meet their needs and goals.

We plan to develop new technologies and online structures to work with local Leagues and with Members-At-Large who may live in smaller communities.

If you have ideas or directions for the state League, please contact Marge Bramer before the State Board Retreat, July 20-21.

SUMMER SOUNDING BOARDS

Join us on Saturday, June 16th at 9am in Community Room A at The Library Center, 4653 S Campbell, Springfield for our first Summer Sounding Board.

Missouri's constitution could be changed to impact how political districts are drawn and how money influences politics. Clean Missouri representative Lexi Amos will explain the Clean Missouri proposal and its call for changes to lobbying, campaign finance and redistricting procedures. Voters will decide the issue in the November 2018 election, if the Missouri Secretary of State certifies it for ballot.

With endorsements from both side of the political aisle, Clean Missouri calls for a nonpartisan expert to draw legislative district maps, which would then be reviewed by a citizen commission. If the measure passes, campaign contributions would be limited, lobbyist gifts to legislators would be all but eliminated and elected officials would have to wait two years before serving as paid lobbyists. More information can be found at www.cleanmissouri.org.

POVERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

by: Kay Chaudhri

Following the successful Poverty Simulation in late April, the Poverty Committee is moving into action on two fronts: direct assistance of a family through SpringfieldConnect and support for policies that will require legislative action.

Families in SpringfieldConnect have committed to working to improve their lives and have gone through the Northwest Project program of meeting once a week for 16 weeks to work on goal setting, budgeting, nutrition, parenting and other needs. They

have at least a high school education. However, at times, their needs may be more than limited income can provide. For this they can be connected to a church or civic group that will assist.

Our family consists of Andrew, Brandy and their two children, ages 4 and 1. They are expecting twins in August. The coordinator at Northwest Project analyzed their needs and gave us a list, which went to members of the Poverty Committee. Brandy says they used their tax refund to buy a used car, but they have not been able to save enough beyond their regular bills to register it. The cost is \$300 and the deadline is June 24. If it is not registered by then, a \$100 penalty is added. This is a case where a family may feel a pay day loan is their only choice.

We have \$207 collected at the Poverty Simulation and intend to collect the rest before the deadline. If you are interested in donating to this cause, please contact either Kay at kay.chaudhri@gmail.com or Ilga at ilga@drury.edu. We are working out the details on how best to handle this transaction.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

14 new citizens registered to vote at Naturalization Ceremony at George Washington Carver Monument



Thursday, May 31 Joan Gentry, Nora Cox, Margery West, and Kelly Wood traveled, road-trip style, to the US Naturalization Ceremony in Diamond, Missouri.

57 new US citizens were sworn in today by Judge Harpool at the George Washington Carver Monument. We registered 14 new voters and gave forms for mailing to many others.



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?](#)



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.

WEAR ORANGE DAY

Diane Stalder, Joan Gentry, Margery West and Angie Synder, represented the League at the MOMS Demand Action Wear Orange for Gun Safety Day Event. The gathering was held at Silver Springs Park on June 2nd. They were there to register voters and share information about the League.



LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES

Summer Sounding Board

Saturday, June 16, 2018

Library Center – Clean Missouri Presentation

LWVUS Convention

June 28-July 1, 2018

Chicago, IL

Summer Sounding Board

Saturday, July 21, 2018

Tour 911

Summer Sounding Board

Saturday, August 18, 2018

Location TBA – Open Social & Convention Roundup

