



# The Voter

## UNIT MEETINGS

The March unit meetings will be **Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** at Mangia, A Nonna's Italian Kitchen, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at noon** at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller will be speaking on the "Future of Voting", including an update on the photo ID issue, what the future of early and/or mail-in voting might be for Missouri, what technology updates are in store (i.e. voting by phone app), and any other new developments on the horizon.

The April unit meetings will be **Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** at Mangia, A Nonna's Italian Kitchen, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at noon** at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

Erick Roberts is the Superintendent of Solid Waste, with the Environmental Services and Public Works department at the City of Springfield. He will give an update on the current city-wide study regarding the trash haulers and how best to provide trash service in the city. Should the City move to a single hauler, should they establish zones by which certain haulers have jurisdiction, shall they establish certain days that trash may be picked up, etc. This has been an issue of concern for the League for many years, so it will be interesting to hear the most recent update.

*\*Directions for Tuesday Unit Meeting: From Central and Summit, go north on Summit and park in the first lot on your right, Lot 7. 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.*

## LWV OF MISSOURI SPRING CONVENTION

In case you have not heard - our league is hosting the 2017 League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention! Mark your calendars now for Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29.

There will be a general business meeting on Friday afternoon from 2pm-5pm, a reception for all delegates on Friday evening from 5:30pm-7:00pm, and the conference will be from 9am-3pm on Saturday. Watch for registration information from the state league newsletter, the MO Voter.

We are hoping to get a good turnout of members from our League. Our League will be allotted 7 voting delegates to be determined by the Board but any member interested may attend. There will be a registration fee. Our League is planning to offset a small portion of the registration fee the fee for members as possible. We will also be helping with the fee for the Friday evening reception. If you are interested attending either the reception or the full convention, please let us know by sending an email to committee member Kate Evert ([katee1120@yahoo.com](mailto:katee1120@yahoo.com)) with "LWV State Convention Interest" as the subject heading.

We will be hosting seven other leagues from across the state so we need help and volunteers.

- We need lots of bakers to bring goodies and cookies for the meetings. If you are willing to bake or bring fruit or snacks (chips, pretzels, nuts), please email committee member Joan Gentry ([joangentry2012@gmail.com](mailto:joangentry2012@gmail.com)). We need cookies, breakfast goodies and snacks.
- We need food and drink hosts for Saturday morning, noon and afternoon. We will be responsible for keeping the coffee, ice tea and water going, straightening the food table, and adding treats as necessary. The shifts will run from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. If you are willing to work one of these shifts, please contact committee chair, Lorraine Sandstrom ([lcsandstrom@gmail.com](mailto:lcsandstrom@gmail.com)).
- Silent Auction help: The silent auction is a traditional fund raiser for the League. Each League is being asked to bring a "basket" of goodies that celebrate their area. We are looking for help providing items for the basket. If you would like to help please contact committee member Lisa Slattery ([icanlaff43@gmail.com](mailto:icanlaff43@gmail.com)).

This is a great opportunity to meet people from other Leagues and to understand what is going on throughout the state. Please take this opportunity to get involved

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New Member Orientation is scheduled for Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30—8:00 pm, at the home of Lisa Slattery. A light meal will be served. Topics will include League's mission, being a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in government. We will also cover a brief overview of the

League’s history, and its structure on a national, state and local level. A LWV Member Handbook will be presented to each new member. Directions to Lisa Slattery’s home will be emailed separately.

## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 6, 5:30-7:00pm, location TBA.

Sara Lampe will share with us the "*10 Dirty Little Secrets of the Missouri Legislature*", based on her experience and years of service as a former state representative. The title of her talk alone should make you want to attend! She will also discuss the most effective way to contact your representatives...by phone, by email, or by letter.

## REMINDER TO VOTE

The deadline to register to vote in the April 4 election is Wednesday, March 8. Absentee voting is now open to anyone who plans to vote in the April 4 election. All Greene County qualified voters wishing to vote absentee in person may do so now at the **Archives/Election Center building, 1126 N. Boonville** and enter through the Archive entrance, **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

All requests to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be received by the Clerk’s office no later than 5 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately preceding an election. All absentee ballots voted via mail must be received by the Clerk’s office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. For more information about absentee voting, military and overseas voting, and voting for those who are permanently disabled, call [417.868.4060](tel:417.868.4060) or visit the Greene County Clerk’s website at [www.greencountymo.gov/county\\_clerk](http://www.greencountymo.gov/county_clerk).

## SPEAKER ON 2016 ELECTION

Tuesday, April 4, 7:30-8:30pm,  
Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts

Doris Kearns Goodwin, renowned political historian, author, and commentator, will be the keynote speaker at the MSU Public Affairs Conference from April 4-7.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS!

How do we rank? Our league ranks 3rd in the state in terms of membership numbers, behind St. Louis and Columbia.

## CHAMBER SURVEY

## Upcoming Dates

### Unit Meetings

Monday, March 20, 2017, 5:30 p.m.  
Magnia A Nonna’s Italian Kitchen  
3512 S. National Ave  
Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 12:00 noon  
Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

### LUNAFEST

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 3:00-5:30pm  
Springfield Art Museum

### Municipal Election

Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
Municipal Election for School Board and City Council Candidates

### MSU Public Affairs Conference

April 4-7, 2017  
[Click here](#) for a complete schedule of events  
Keynote Speaker: April 4, 2017; 7:30-8:30pm  
Keynote Speaker: Doris Kearns Goodwin  
[Click here](#) for more details on her speech.

### General Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2017  
Location TBD

### New Member Orientation

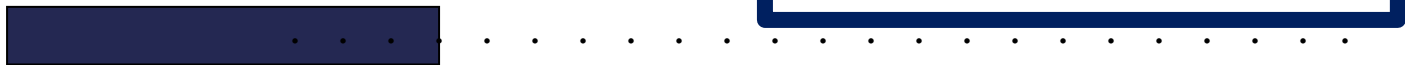
Monday, April 10, 2017

### Unit Meetings

Monday, April 17, 2017, 5:30 p.m.  
Mangia A Nonna’s Italian Kitchen  
3512 S. National Ave  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 12:00 noon  
Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

### 2017 Spring Conference

Friday, April 28, 2017 2pm-5pm General Meeting with reception from 5:30pm-7:00pm  
Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9am-3pm Conference  
Location TBA



The Springfield Chamber of Commerce wants to hear from the community as to what we want Springfield to look like in the future. Please take a few minutes to complete this [survey](#) and give your opinion on future plans. This needs to be completed by March 15.

## OZARKS MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK UPDATE

The Ozarks Mental Health Network, at the end of 2016, established a 7-member Leadership Council. In the January 19 meeting, the first charge of the Leadership Council was to administer a survey to all those on the Network Contact List in an attempt to strategically plan the actions of the Network in 2017. We received 25 responses, for a small response rate of about 23%. In hopes to gather more feedback, the Council agreed to slightly alter the survey and then each member forwarded the link to their own co-workers and organizational contacts. To date, there have been 27 responses. We will continue to seek data through mid-March. Please participate and encourage others to do so. You DO NOT need to be familiar with mental health services or the Network to complete the [survey](#).

The Network's next meeting is on WEDNESDAY MARCH 22 at 3:30 in Meeting Room 1 at Burrell Children’s Center, 1300 Bradford Parkway. Park in the furthest east parking lot and enter by the statue of children holding hands. Open to the public. All are encouraged to attend. Bring your dreams, complaints, ideas and a friend.

### Leadership Council:

- Debora Biggs – Executive Director, NAMI of Southwest Missouri
- Sabrina Bonnette – Missouri Job Center, Disabled Veterans’ Representative
- Gina Burroughs – Burrell Transitions
- Annie Busch – formerly of Springfield-Greene County Libraries and social activist
- Chris Davis – Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Mental Health First Aid
- Danielle Dingman – Springfield Greene County Public Health Department
- Leslie Mullins – RH, Nurse Manager at Mercy Marian Center
- Co-chair Joye Norris - Associate Provost for Access and Outreach, Missouri State University (and League of Women Voters)
- Co-chair Lisa Hall –Gerontology Program Coordinator, Psychology Department, Missouri State University (and League of Women Voters)

## PR/COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The newly-formed PR and Communications Committee is energized and focused on three goals: Improving communication with members, making it easier to engage with the League and the work we do and establishing the League as THE resource for citizen engagement.

Knowing “many hands make light work,” we’ve started by committing to simple but important tasks such as meeting and event reminders, assisting with the newsletter by writing articles and maintaining the calendar on our website, [www.lwvswmo.org](http://www.lwvswmo.org)

The committee includes Aimee Nichols, Camille Delaurier, Autumn Wofford, Lee Ann Worman, Annie Donohue, Claire Porter, Vivian Wheeler, Edna Smith and Ann Elwell.

We’ll be meeting again in March. If you’d like to join, contact Ann at [aelwell@classicnet.net](mailto:aelwell@classicnet.net)

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

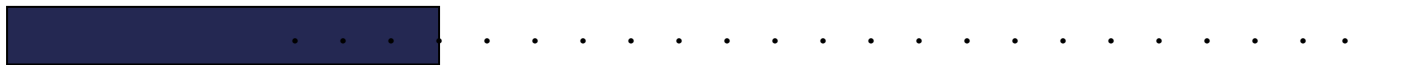
The committee has met and voted to adopt a section of Sunshine Street for litter cleanup. The next meeting is April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at the Panera on East Battlefield.

## LEAGUE NAMETAGS

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

## GET INVOLVED LOCALLY

Are you looking for a way to get involved? Do you have an interest in local policy? If so, check out the list of boards and commissions for the [City of Springfield](#) and [Greene County](#). These boards are always looking for citizens to serve and will accept applications throughout the year. Many public officials get their start by serving on a local board or commission! Why not be the next one?



# SPEAK UP! TAKE ACTION!

One of the easiest actions we can all take right now is to make our voices heard by contacting our elected representatives and senators, both on the state and national levels. [Click here](#) for a list of all our local, state, and national representatives and senators (thanks to Ann Elwell for collecting this information for us).

## WOMEN’S MARCH

Our own League member’s Maggie Castry and Julie Schulze both attended the Women’s march in Washington, D.C. They each have shared their experiences, from their perspective about one of the largest marches in U.S. history. Last month we shared Maggie’s story and this month read here for Julie’s inspirational story:

Julie Schulze



Julie and her sister were just two of the thousands in the crowds on this historic day!



For those who couldn’t see the stage, speakers such as women’s leader Gloria Steinem were broadcast on the jumbo screens set up along the march route.

### Women’s March on Washington By Julie Schulze

I left Springfield for the Women’s March on Washington, not knowing what to expect, but feeling compelled to share my view that women’s rights are human rights.

Saturday, January 21st, was overcast and about 50 degrees. It would be a good day for a march. We arrived at the Foggy Bottom Metro station to see people fanned out into the street. The crowd was so huge that we decided to walk the couple of miles to Independence and Third, where marchers were to gather. The day before the inauguration, security had closed the streets around the Federal Triangle to cars. Our plan was to follow the crowd and find our way to the designated gathering spot, listen to speakers, and then march for about a mile from Independence and Third to the White House.

As we walked, the crowd swelled with each block. Pink hats and signs popped up everywhere—some reverent, some irreverent, and some quite hysterical. Women of all ages, and some men and children, walked along with us. Every ethnic group filled the streets, and by the time we reached Independence and Seventh Street, we could proceed no farther.

Along Independence Avenue, the crowd surged around the half dozen jumbotrons with sound systems that were lined up like dominoes a few hundred feet apart. The massive crowd quieted as the famous feminist and co-chair, Gloria Steinem, stepped to the mic. She was the first to comment on the size of the march, noting that she could not see to the end of the “ocean of people who had come to support women’s rights.” Steinem noted that this was the largest





crowd she had witnessed in her very long life.

The crowd roared back to life when she thanked participants for “putting their bodies where their beliefs are.” “This is democracy,” she shouted. Angela Davis, Michael Moore, America Ferrera, Scarlet Johansson, Ashely Judd, and Cecile Richards were some of the speakers who followed.

The crowd was bigger than any of us had anticipated. At times, the sound system was wholly inadequate, and many marchers could not see what was happening on screen because of the crush of people coming and going. People were spirited, but patient and kind, “please lower your sign,” “thank you,” “please excuse me; I need to find my daughter,” or “my child needs the Porta-Potty.”

At each request, the crowd parted without complaint for the searchers, children, women on walkers, even ambulances as they inched through the mass. After several hours, a woman with a bullhorn asked people to please move to The Mall. The police had deemed there were too many people to march in the streets, so the march became a rally.

Through songs, speeches, and chants, we promised our efforts would not end after January 21st. There was a harmony and peacefulness that I had not expected of such a large crowd. Each person seemed to be there to support the others and to state her cause, even more than to mock the new president—though that was part of it, too. Signs and chants were spontaneous, creative, and very clever. They addressed women’s rights, human rights, health care issues, and the negative tone of the Trump campaign.

Each speaker emphasized that today was the beginning of our collective education and mobilization: “We will be involved where we are.... The President is not America, the Congress is not America, but We the people...,” as the Preamble to our Constitution states, “are America.”

My sister and I had the opportunity to attend the Peace Ball on Thursday night before the Inauguration and heard Senator Cory Booker speak. He emphasized the words of Thomas Jefferson in The Declaration of Independence: “For the support of this declaration... we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.” Booker’s message, I believe, was that my destiny is locked with yours. Love of country demands sacrifice, and the struggle for rights in this country has always been carried on the backs of those who love America, not necessarily from those in the seats of power.

From the marchers who stood beside us to the speakers and the elected officials on stage, we heard the same message: if you want change, educate yourself, mobilize, and take

action. Many conversations about the mechanics of doing so followed in hotels, vans to the airport, and in restaurants along the way home. The Women’s March on Washington was just the beginning.

## MISSOURI PROJECT BUDGET

We learned a lot about the Missouri Budget Project at the February unit meetings...and learned just what a complicated process it is! If you missed the meetings, here is the [PowerPoint presentation](#).

If you want more detailed information on the major components of the Governor’s Budget Request for FY 2018, as compared to the current year, you can see the budget tracking document at the following link: <http://www.mobudget.org/fy-2018-budget-tracking-2/>

The MO Budget Project has also put together a more detailed description of the Governor’s Medicaid (MO HealthNet) budget at the link below. MO HealthNet is one of the most complex budgets in the state. Funding in this budget is described by categories of service, such as pharmacy or physician services, rather than described by program or eligibility category. As a result, it can be very difficult to decipher the MO HealthNet budget proposal and track its impact on services. To help make the budget more transparent, the MBP has summarized the major components of the MO HealthNet budget, and the most significant changes proposed in the Governor’s recommended State Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, which begins on July 1st. <http://www.mobudget.org/mo-healthnet-executive-budget-summary/>

To follow the work of the MO Budget Project, click here: [www.mobudget.org](http://www.mobudget.org)

## LUNA FEST

Attend LUNAFEST and enjoy great films while supporting an important community cause. You'll have fun and make a difference. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, an art silent auction, time with friends, and the beautiful art of the museum, all while supporting the OACAC Family Planning program and the Breast Cancer Fund. LUNAFEST will be held at the Springfield Art Museum on Saturday, March 25 from 3:00-5:30pm.

Check out the link to get a taste of what it’s all about: <http://www.lunafest.org/#video>

## A BIG THANK YOU!



The following businesses purchased ads in our 2016 Voters Guide. We can't print the publication without their support. If you know them or do business there, please give them a hearty THANKS for supporting the League's efforts to educate voters.

- Conco Companies**
- Don Wessel Honda**
- Wealth Conservatory**
- Bambino's**
- Central Bank/Central Trust**
- Connect4Good**
- Drury**
- Drury - L.E. Meador Center**
- Ethel Curbow-Coldwell Bank**
- Evangel University**
- Greene County Democrats**
- Green County Republicans**
- Hutcheson Law**
- Missouri NEA**
- MSU**
- MSU-Political Science Department**
- OTC**
- Ozarks Elder Law**
- Penmac**
- Remax-Dan Senn**
- Roberts, Mangan and Cummings, CPA**
- Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association**
- Stenger Group**
- Cline Dental**
- Guaranty Bank**
- Maschino's**
- Rebecca S Whitaker Counseling**
- Robert Ingold, Attorney**
- Robert W. Nunn, DDS**
- State Bank of Southwest Missouri**
- Waverly House**

