



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

# The Voter

## UPCOMING UNIT MEETINGS

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

Our speaker this month will be Jonathan Groves, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair, Communication, Drury University. Dr. Groves will speak on the Community Focus report. More information about the report can be found at <https://www.springfieldcommunityfocus.org/>

*\*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.*

## LWV BOARD REPORT FEB 2018

Board members of the LWV of Southwest Missouri met on Monday, February 26, 2018. Our regular agenda included a brief report from the treasurer, membership updates, unit and general meeting planning, updates from board members and their action groups, and upcoming events. Highlights of the meeting include:

- The new member orientation was held Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at Leslie Carrier's house. Thirteen new members were in attendance.
- The Spring State Conference is May 5, in Independence. Contact Kelly if you are interested. More information to come.
- Upcoming meetings are scheduled or in progress.
  - March: Community Focus Group report and discussion
  - April: TBA
  - General Meeting: "Poverty Simulation" on April 28<sup>th</sup> at SCIL.
  - Suggested Summer Sounding Board topics are:
    - Clean Missouri presentation from Sean Nicholson
    - Tour of the 911 Emergency Center
    - Report on the National Convention
    - Rosie update on the 2018 elections.

- 2018 is Voters' Guide time! An organizational meeting took place on Tuesday, February 27, 5:30 at the Library Station, Sante Fe room. Anyone interested in helping can contact Lorraine Sandstrom for more information to attend a future meeting.
- Our first ever Political Trivia Night fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, April 6, at the Pitch Pizza and Pub. Check-in begins at 6pm; the game will run from 7-9pm. Cost is \$100 per table of 6; or \$20 per person. Total of 10 tables available. Promote event to friends and family. More information to come. If you would like to volunteer, contact Nora Cox.
- The board discussed having a Voter Registration table at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Rally for gun violence. Lorraine will confirm that this is permissible per the National League.
- The board decided to have a booth at ArtsFest, May 5-6. Volunteers will be needed for both days, divided into 2 shifts. May also want to include registrars from Christian and Webster counties.
- Joan Gentry of the Voter Advocacy and Protection (VAP) group met with Judge Peggy Davis of the Drug Court. There is interest in the League providing information about the restoration of voting rights and voter registration as needed. Joan and the VAP will continue to develop this relationship.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Poverty Simulation. Arrive at 8:30am. Simulation will run from 9-11am, with lunch and discussion afterward. A minimum donation of \$5 is requested; donations will be given to an organization that is addressing poverty in the community. Open to League members; all are encouraged to bring a friend or family member(s). League members will provide coffee and snacks before the event and Victory Mission will provide lunch afterwards. Information on how to register is forthcoming.

Next board meeting is Monday, March 26, 2018.

## 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?](#)

## STREET CLEANUP

Join the League on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am to help clean up our adopted street. Meet at the southwest corner of Thelma and Sunshine, in the parking lot of the vacant building. Participants need to have sent in a signed waiver, wear print clothing and bring work gloves and water. It should last about two hours and will be followed by a lunch/committee meeting at a nearby restaurant. If you plan to participate and haven't yet filled out the [waiver](#), please fill it out and send it to the address at the bottom before the cleanup. Contact Debbie Good at [djgood69@yahoo.com](mailto:djgood69@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

## SAVE THE DATE! VOTER DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAINING

The Greene County Clerk's office will be offering Voter Deputy Registrar training on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am and on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. This will be open to all League members who reside in Greene County and who wish to be able to register new voters.

To register for April 19<sup>th</sup>: <http://whoozin.com/AHJ-HPM-9JEW>  
To register for April 25<sup>th</sup>: <http://whoozin.com/PFN-ARD-QFXA>

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date: April 6, 2018, 7-9:00pm  
Political Trivia Night at the Pitch Pub benefiting the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri. Local celeb Beth Domann to serve as guest MC. Start getting your trivia group together now. Details forthcoming on RSVP.



## POVERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Poverty Committee will meet on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00pm at Panera Bread, 500 S. National, at the corner of National and Elm. Meghan Visser, Program Development Specialist with OCAC, will give us an overview of the Poverty Simulation, which will take place in the General Meeting, on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact co-chairs Kay Chaudhri, Martee Robinson or Ilga Vise with any questions.

## LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES

### Poverty Committee Meeting

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm-7pm  
Panera, 500 S National

### Unit Meetings

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at Prima's  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, noon at Drury Findley Student Ctr

### March for Our Lives SGF

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am  
Park Central Square

### LWVSWMO Board Meeting

Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

### Voter Advocacy Committee Meeting

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm  
5 Spice Restaurant, 2058 S Glenstone Ave

### Street Cleanup

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 9am  
Corner of Thelma & Sunshine

### Political Trivia Night

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

### Voter Deputy Registrar Training, Greene Co.

Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm  
Location TBA

### General Meeting – Poverty Simulation

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-11am  
Southwest Center for Independent Living

### LWVMO Spring Convention

Saturday, May 5, 2018  
Kansas City, MO

### LWVUS Convention

June 28-July 1, 2018  
Chicago, IL



# POVERTY SIMULATION

by: Jeanne Duffey

These days talk is everywhere, but League members want action. That’s why the League is sponsoring an event on Saturday, April 28, that is planned to be the catalyst to form a poverty action group.

The three-hour Poverty Simulation, hosted by OACAC, will be held from 9 a.m. until noon and will include a lunch buffet catered by the Victory Mission. The last hour from 11 a.m. until noon will be a working lunch in which action steps will be developed, said League member Martee Robinson who organized the event.

“Unless you’ve experienced poverty first-hand, you really don’t know the challenges and problems that face those who find themselves in these circumstances,” said Martee, who has had a long career working for nonprofits.

“In my lifetime, I’ve known what it was like to not have what I thought I needed, taking food back from the grocery store line because I didn’t have enough money, getting the ‘look’ when I used food stamps.

“As time passes, I have become less connected to those who have not been as fortunate. This experience of poverty simulation may energize us to act on our basic belief in helping others. It may be frustrating and eye-opening, but it may also invigorate us to make a difference.”

The number of participants is limited to 40 and can include League members and their friends and partners. The League is asking for a \$5 per person minimum donation that will be given to an organization that is addressing poverty in the community. Sign-up sheets will be distributed at unit meetings. Or, you can register to attend the event by calling Ilga Vise at [417.883-7817](tel:417.883.7817) or e-mail her at [ivise@drury.edu](mailto:ivise@drury.edu), or by calling Kay Chaudhri at [417.883.5095](tel:417.883.5095) or e-mail her at [kay.chaudhri@gmail.com](mailto:kay.chaudhri@gmail.com).

# VOTER ADVOCACY & PROTECTION ACTION GROUP

The Voter Advocacy and Protection Action Group met February 28th, 2018. Items discussed included an update on the meeting with Judge Peggy Davis concerning the League’s potential role as an advocate for voting rights restoration for individuals who have completed their legal obligations with the Justice system. Information concerning Restoration of Voting Rights will soon become a part of the Voter Information page on our

website. Group members will have an opportunity to visit drug court and attend graduation ceremonies. Other items discussed included planning a letter/card writing effort to advocate for voter rights, anecdotal voting issues shared with the County Clerk’s office, the generic form letter being sent to selected voters and the possibility of and need for a Spanish wallet card which could be shared with the Hispanic community. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th, 5:30, at 5 Spice Restaurant.

# VOTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The committee is ready to turn over names and contact information to Mark Maness of Human Centered Design. Mark will conduct one-on-one interviews with young people between the ages of 18 to 30 years about their voting habits. We plan to use the information he gathers to help us plan ways in which we might help increase voter turnout amount this group.

# MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

On Saturday, March 24, at 11 a.m., kids and families will gather in Park Central square *"to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today."*

The League of Women Voters US has asked Leagues across the country to support their local groups and have posted the following message: *Curbing Gun violence is a matter of public safety and public health; the League continues to support common sense solutions to gun violence. The League has repeatedly urged both chambers of Congress to pass new legislation addressing the gun violence plaguing our nation. Additionally, our supporters helped us urge Senators to help save lives by supporting proposed gun safety solutions, including closing the gun show loophole, increasing penalties for straw purchases of guns, banning assault weapons, placing limits on high capacity ammunition magazines.*

If you are planning to attend the gathering you are welcome to wear your League of Women Voters identification. We have been asked to have a member speak for a few minutes on the importance of voting. There is another group that is planning on doing voter registration but we may still be able to assist them by providing Deputy Registrars.

# 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.



# ROSIE HOSTS GIVE IT A RUN FORUM



Women in political leadership has been an issue simmering on the back burner for decades, but since the Women’s March on January 21, 2017, the worldwide protest advocating legislation and policies regarding human rights, that issue has been moved to the front burner and the heat is on high. Women from all walks of life are now contemplating roles in their local, state, and national government and Rosie answered that interest by hosting Give It a Run, a forum with local women leaders covering their experiences in pursuing elected office, at the eFactory on February 26, 2018.

Moderated by Paige Oxendine, Business Incubator Program Coordinator at the eFactory, the panel featured Sandy Howard (Senior Vice President of Public Affairs with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce), Jill Patterson (Vice President of Springfield R-12 Board of Education), Joelle Cannon (District Office Director for Senator Roy Blunt), and Jan Fisk (Mayor Pro Tem of Springfield). Panelist were asked questions relating to their personal experiences regarding how they came to decide to pursue their leadership roles, what were the greatest challenges in that pursuit (spoiler: fundraising), and what advice they would give to other women considering public office.

During the conversation, Joelle Cannon referenced the book “Broad Influence: How Women Are Changing the Way America Works” by Jay Newton-Small, and one of the points she took away from the book was the author’s observation that a tipping point seems to be reached when women make up between 20 to 30 percent of an institution. When there is female representation in this range, Newton-Small asserts, women begin to significantly change the way institutions are governed and managed. Ms. Cannon then pointed out that the Missouri Legislature is 20 percent women (though that representation is down a few percentage points from recent years).

With this enjoyable and informative forum as a great start, we hope that this is just an initial throat-clearing to a long and in-depth conversation and reflection on the roles of women in leadership and public life in Springfield and the surrounding area.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month we are privileged to meet a relatively new member of the League of Women Voters, and her name is Ellen Duvall. Like so many of us, Ellen is retired. She was a nursing professor at Cox College in Springfield for fifteen years. Ellen worked as a nurse for forty years, and her education includes a BSN, MS in Nursing, and Master’s in Education.

Ellen’s interests include travel and reading. She has been married for forty-seven years, and she and her husband have taken European river cruises, traveled to China, and visited national parks out west. However, Ellen says her favorite place to visit was Prague.

Although Ellen has never belonged to another League, she says she joined on the recommendation of member Jeanne Duffey. A neighbor, Ann Young, was also very interested in the League, and they joined together. Ellen says she hopes to learn more about issues confronting us such as sustainability and voter advocacy. We would like to welcome Ellen to our League.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM LWVMO

Please find attached a [Legislative Update](#) for March 4, 2018 from LWVMO. The information has been provided by the Missouri Budget Project.

Included is Tax Update on House Bill 2540 and MO HealthNet Work Requirements.

In case you missed it, here is also a link to the [February 2018 Legislative Update](#) from the state league.

