

The Voter

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting (and dinner) will be held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 5:30pm at the Drury University Hoblit Suite*. This is our wrap-up to the year, a time to reflect on ALL the projects we've accomplished (whew!), mingle with and meet league members, and set the focus for the next year. We plan to expedite the business portion of the meeting to allow more time for brainstorming and discussing current league activities and action!

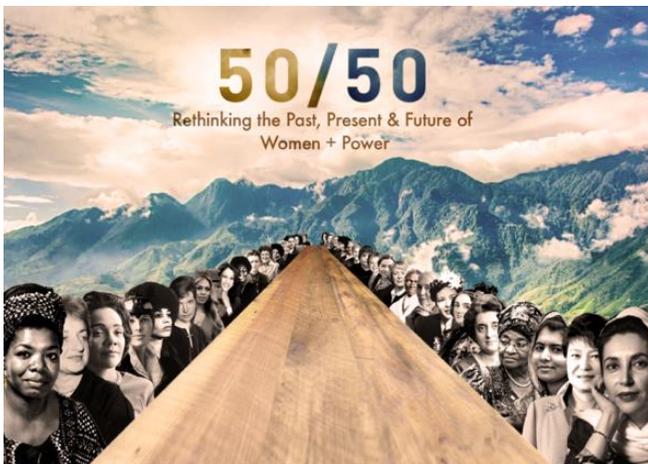
Dinner reservations are \$20. Please RSVP to kellywood@missouristate.edu by May 8th to let us know you plan to attend so we have an accurate headcount for the caterer.

Mail your check to:
LWV of Southwest Missouri
PO Box 3036
Springfield, MO 65808-3036

**Directions for Annual Meeting: From Central and Summit, go north on Summit and park in the first lot on your left. The Hoblit Room is on the first floor of the brick building on the north side of the parking lot. It is the Greek Panhellenic Building, located just to the east of the Tuesday unit meeting location.*

50/50 MOVIE AT THE MOXIE!

Please join us at The Moxie Cinema in Springfield on Wednesday, May 10th from 5:00-6:30pm. Along with people at 8,000 other locations across the country, we will watch a 20-minute file made for the global movement called **50/50 Day** ([Watch Trailer](#)).



50/50 gives the 10,000-year history of women and power, from setbacks and uprisings, to the bigger context of where we

are today. Using her signature, cinematic-thought-essay style, Emmy-nominated filmmaker and founder of The Webby Awards Tiffany Shlain brings us on an electric ride to explore, where are we really on the greater arc of history of women and power? And what's it going to take to get to a #50/50 world – not just politics and board rooms, but truly shifting the gender balance to be better for everyone.

There is no charge for this event but seating is limited to 84. To avoid disappointment, please RSVP early at <https://www.facebook.com/events/436919733310962/>. This screening is sponsored by League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri; Women in Communications; Women Connect4Good, Inc.; and Thrive Personal Fitness.

Screening Day Agenda

- Arrive at Moxie Lobby at 5pm, purchase refreshments and find a seat.
- At 5:30pm we will view a 20-minute film by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tiffany Shlain about achieving gender-balance in all sectors of society.
- After the film, we will discuss ways to move toward gender balance in our own lives, the workplace and community.
- At 6:30 we will adjourn to a nearby location to continue the conversation.

For more information on 50/50 visit:
<http://www.letitriple.org>

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Ruth Newton made the national League news! The national League office shared the recent [News-Leader article](#) about Ruth in their April 13 "League Update", stating "*Born the same year the League was founded, ninety-seven year old Ruth Newton reflects on organizing a League chapter in rural Missouri and how she found her voice through the League.*"

STATE CONVENTION NOTES

The 63rd State Convention of LWV Missouri took place Friday, April 28- Saturday, April 29, 2017 here in Springfield, MO. Here is a rundown of the activities for the weekend. The Convention began on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the *Missouri State University's Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center* where we began with an ice breaker called "League Bingo" to help the 40+ attendees get to know each other. There were many new League members in attendance so the activity helped us get to know each other better. After a rundown of the proposed 2017-2019 budget and bylaws changes there was evening reception. Many of our local league members showed up to be hosts and greeters.

The second day of the convention was held at *Drury University's Trustee Science Center*. Dodging the rain and storms, local members greeted attendees with umbrellas and a hand to bring in boxes and baskets for the day's events. We began at 9:00 a.m., and after announcements, our **Keynote Speaker—Crystal Quade** shared with us her experience as a new representative in the Missouri Legislature. Crystal described many of her experiences so far, including being elected Vice President of the Freshman Legislative Class, learning decorum rules, figuring out when to eat in between meetings, adjusting to a new schedule which can sometimes last until late hours, and becoming adept at working with those across the aisle to get bills out of committee and onto the floor. Crystal spoke for over an hour with us, most of that in Q&A with the delegates and attendees.



The next speaker was to be Lindsey Baker, Missouri Budget Project. She was scheduled to share information from the Missouri Budget Project, an organization which provides independent, objective research and analysis of state budget and tax issues. Unfortunately, her presentation was cancelled due to weather.

Throughout the rest of the morning and day, there was a silent auction with each of the eight Missouri Leagues providing a basket or box of goodies that represented their area and their local businesses.



The remaining business of the convention included discussion about the proposed budget and bylaws. In the end, all the recommendations were approved by the 35+ eligible

delegates. In addition, a new state League President and board members were elected, including our own Marge Bramer. We are proud to have her represent Southwest Missouri in the state board. Our new state president is Kathleen Boswell from the Sedalia league.



A **BIG thank you** goes out to all the local league members who provided food, drinks, and smiles as hosts and greeters for the 2-day convention. Throughout both days someone approached me to say how great Springfield is, that the food was great, and that we hosted a great convention. Among many others, much thanks and appreciation goes to Lorraine Sandstrom for coordinating the convention arrangements, along with Kate Evert, Joan Gentry, Lisa Slattery, and Leslie Carrier.



League Upcoming Dates

Annual Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2017 5:30pm
Drury University Hoblit Suite

50/50 Movie

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:00-6:30pm
Moxie Cinema, 305 S Campbell Ave #101,
Springfield, MO

Summer Sounding Boards

June 17, July 15, August 19; 9:30am
Locations TBA

SUMMER SOUNDING BOARDS

Mark your calendars now for 9:30am on Saturday, June 17, July 15 and August 19...locations TBA. We don't have our usual unit meetings during the summer; instead, we have a monthly Summer Sounding Board, held the 3rd Saturday morning of the month at 9:30am. It's a casual coffee and brunch with a speaker and discussion. We are working to arrange a speaker on "Fake News: How to Avoid It" and a local activist who spent a week at Standing Rock during the Dakota Access Pipeline protest last fall. More details will come out soon.

DO YOU LIKE HISTORY?

We are looking for 1-2 members who would be interested in writing and compiling the history of our league. We have several documents, all the minutes from 1952, and other interesting information, but it's not in a usable format for other members to read and enjoy. This is the type of project you can work on at your leisure, consult with others on what should be included, and come up with some way to showcase the history of our league. If interested, contact Leslie Carrier at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Environmental Sustainability

The Environmental Sustainability committee adopted a section of street on Sunshine, near the Perkins restaurant. It's always great to see the League's name out there, especially when we are doing our part to clean up the environment!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have 122 members! That's an increase of almost 40 members from this time last year! Welcome to all the new members and thanks for jumping in, becoming active, and adding your voice to the mission of the League.

MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Synder

Joan Gentry

New member Joan Gentry is a retired middle-school science teacher, who taught in Springfield for 22 years. She also worked in Wichita, Kansas and Fayette, Missouri, but we're sure she likes Springfield the best, since she retired here. She has a BSE from the University of Missouri with an emphasis in the biological sciences and an MSE from Missouri State University with an emphasis in reading in the content area.

Joan has a variety of interests to keep her busy in retirement. She belongs to a book group that began meeting in February 1998. A different member selects the book each month, does research about the author, and presents that information as the book is discussed. Such a long-running book group must have read a lot of good books by now! Joan also belongs to a group of women who meet on Fridays to watch lectures from the Great Courses company, which sounds like great fun. Clearly Joan is a very active retiree, as she is also a member of the Senior Democrats of the Ozarks, the Democratic Alliance, and occasionally works on projects for the Greene County Democratic Committee. To round out her repertoire, she and a good friend collaborate on art projects, some of which have been displayed at ArtsFest and Art in the Park. What an accomplishment!

Joan and her husband have been married for 52 years, which is also an amazing accomplishment. Congrats to them! Their son and daughter-in-law are clinical pharmacists at Mercy and they have 2 wonderful grandchildren, Anderson, 14, and Kaeley, 10.

Although Joan has clearly been very active in her community, this is her first experience being part of the League of Women Voters. She's known about the League for many years and her sister-in-law is active in the New York City League. Joan says, "the political climate this year provided the impetus to become active locally." We are glad that Joan has brought some of her active spirit to our League!

