



## The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

# The Voter

## LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for 2018 will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Drury University Hoblit Suite at 5:30pm. We look forward to everyone attending this annual celebratory event. Directions to the event location will follow. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Kelly Wood at [kellywood@missouristate.edu](mailto:kellywood@missouristate.edu) by Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$20 per member, payable in cash or check at check-in.

Per our by-laws, all members are to be notified of the date and time, the nominations for new board members, and the proposed budget prior to the annual meeting.

Thanks to this year's Nominating Committee members Angie Synder (chair), Susan Rubino, Joyce Pyle and Lisa Hall.

They have submitted the following nominees for the 2018-2019 Board of Directors:

- 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

Also, please review the [proposed budget](#) and we will address questions and amendments at the meeting.

## LWV BOARD REPORT FOR APRIL 2018

Board members of the LWV of Southwest Missouri met on Monday, April 30, 2018. Our regular agenda included a brief report from the treasurer, unit and general meeting planning, updates from board members and their action groups, and upcoming events.

Highlights of the meeting include:

- The Spring State Conference is May 5, in Independence.
- We will have a booth at ArtsFest, May 5-6. Voter registration will be available and a mock election with a craft will be provided for children. Contact Angie Synder if interested in volunteering.

- The next Voter's Guide planning meeting is in May. Please contact Lorraine if you would like to assist this year.
- The Trivia Night was a success. The League earned \$855 and plans will be made to hold another event next year.
- The Poverty Simulation was held April 28<sup>th</sup> with 44 attendees. Donations totally \$207 will be given to Springfield Connect.
- The annual meeting is Monday, May 21, 2018. Please RSVP to Kelly Wood or Ilga Vise. Cost is \$20 per person.
- Summer Sounding Boards:
  - June 16 – Clean Missouri Presentation at the Library Center
  - July 21<sup>st</sup> – Tour 911
  - August 18<sup>th</sup> – Open Social and Convention Roundup
- The League may host a simulcast of a Fall Candidate Forum sponsored by the Kansas City League for the Senate and State Auditor seats.

## FOCUS GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Are you willing to participate in a brief community focus group in May? The Healthy Living Alliance (Springfield-Greene County Health Department plus other community representatives) received a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to conduct a [community mental health assessment](#).

Anyone who has been associated with the League or Network is invited to participate. You have a valuable perspective to offer in this focus group if you have:

- experienced mental illness personally or with a family member or friend
- provided mental health services
- experienced trying to navigate services for mental health treatment
- studied mental health/mental illness
- advocated or want to advocate for improved mental health service delivery and/or policies and legislation

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, contact Lisa Hall at [lhall@missouristate.edu](mailto:lhall@missouristate.edu).

# WE WALKED IN THEIR SHOES

by: Jeanne Duffey



I was Ned, a 57-year-old disabled man. Madeline Schnick was his granddaughter, a 15-year-old high school student with a part-time job. Mary Lorenz was the breadwinner of the family, a 36-year-old man who worked a minimum-wage job, and Margery West took on the role of his wife, now unemployed.

Our “family” was one of about a dozen groupings seated in a large room on April 28 at the Southwest Center for Independent Living in Springfield for an OACAC-sponsored Poverty Simulation. Around its perimeter others were seated behind tables portraying a host of services, such as a bank, mortgage company, super center, employer, utility company, pawn



brokers and others.

OACAC facilitator Carl Thomas distributed nametags and brief bios to each of us. And he told us the “rules” of the simulation and what we had to do each week to work, eat, pay bills to get by—to avoid the humiliation, stresses, panic and fear of homelessness and strife.



Fifty League members, their friends and relatives took part, another 16 OACAC staff and volunteers coordinated the event and a delicious lunch of enchiladas, salad and fruit was served by the Victory Mission. After lunch, we gathered at tables to discuss various issues regarding poverty and possible League action.

“It was so impactful,” said Ann Bagley. “Not all of us have the understanding of these issues.

This exercise allows us to come face to face with what people deal with every day in their lives.”

For most of us, it was a valuable reality check.

*Next month’s newsletter will include a more in-depth discussion of issues and action steps that took place at the simulation.*

## 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 UPCOMING DATES

### LWVMO Spring Convention

Saturday, May 5, 2018  
Kansas City, MO

### ArtsFest (League Booth)

May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
Walnut Street, Springfield

### LWVSWMO Annual Meeting

Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30pm  
Drury University Hoblit Suite

### 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



# LAUGH OUT LOUD FUN AT LEAGUE’S FIRST TRIVIA NIGHT!

By Jeanne Duffey

Seven teams—41 of us, including friends and spouses—competed in the League’s first-ever Political Trivia Night. ECB which stands for Electoral College Badasses, the team of Ann Elwell, Dana Elwell, Leslie Carrier, Ron Carrier, Brad Bodenhausen and Kerry Bodenhausen, came in first, with the Poll Cats and the Party of the First Party tying for second place.



Photo of winning team – ECB (Electoral College Badasses)

The fundraiser, which netted \$855, was held on April 6 at The Pitch Pub and Pizza. The funds will be donated to the state League office to help with staffing.

Emcee Beth Doman, executive director of Springfield Little Theatre, got the party started and kept the fun going as the teams attempted to answer questions assembled by MSU professor Nora Cox aided by retired high school teacher Randy Cottle. Kudos to Nora who chaired the committee and provided the PowerPoint that displayed the questions. Especially clever was the question asking the participants to match politicians with their Secret Service handles. That one brought a moan from the crowd.

Kelly Wood deftly worked the PowerPoint as Lorraine Sandstrom, Kay Chaudhri and Lisa Slattery served as nonpartial judges. Angie Snyder helped with registration and organized the 50/50 challenge which involved a lot of standing and sitting down and was won by David Duffey, a member of the Party of the First Party team.



The consensus? Let’s do it again!

## VOTERS’ GUIDE

By Lorraine Sandstrom

The 2018 Mid-term Election Voters Guide Committee met in April. Kate Evert has taken on the responsibility of getting county candidates information posted on Vote411.org. Information will be included from Greene, Christian, and for the first time, Webster counties. The exciting part is all primary candidates’ information will be posted prior to the August primary. After the primary Kate will remove the information from the losing candidates. Only the winning candidates’ information will be published in the Voter’s Guide. Kate and Angie Snyder will craft questions for the candidates specific to the office they are seeking.

At the Annual Meeting on May 21 the Committee will present information to the membership about the new and improved plan for selling advertising in the Guide. One big push for the



Committee is to improve advertising for Vote411.org, the national LWV online database for election information. We are hoping to be able to use some of the electronic signs and marquees to help us promote. We'd like to do a demonstration at the August Summer Sounding Board.

## VOTER ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION ACTION GROUP

Several members of the group have attended Drug Court. We will be attending the May Graduation Ceremony. The Spanish wallet card and information sheet is available for distribution. One of our summer projects will be to identify a population of newly registered voters and send out personalized postcards prior to the August election. We will not have scheduled meetings but plan to get together to write cards.

## LAWSUIT UPDATES FROM THE MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION

1. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the updated Photo ID lawsuit was filed in Appellate court by the ACLU on behalf of the MO-NAACP and the LWVMO. This suit alleges that the DMV offices are not doing their jobs as it relates to offering voter registration and/or changing and updating voter registration records.
2. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the MO Voter Protection Coalition sent out the following memo. "...ACLU, Demos and Advancement Project filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of the LWVMO and the Kansas City and St Louis Chapters of the A. Philip Randolph Institute asking the court to require Missouri to comply with the key provisions of the *Help America Vote Act* to ensure that voter rolls are updated and accurate, and to ensure that all eligible citizens are receiving voter registration opportunities that federal law requires. The *National Voter Registration Act* was passed to facilitate voter registration.

KY3 aired this story about the lawsuit: [Missouri sued for alleged voter registration law violation.](#)

## 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.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kate Evert has only been a member of our League since August of 2016, but the League has been in her family for a while. Kate's mother was active in the League of Women Voters for decades, and politics has always been a focus for her family. Kate says that a neighbor came to visit just two days after she moved into her home in Republic, and her neighbor mentioned that she was on her way to a League Unit

meeting. Kate asked, "Can I come next time?" Of course, "The rest is history!"

Kate formerly lived in Chicago, where she acquired a BA degree from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Liberal Arts from the University of Chicago. Although she is basically retired from a career as a Training Manager and Project Manager in the IT departments of various large law firms, she now works part-time at home writing training curricula and assessments for a training vendor employed by law firms.

Kate says she has been happily single for twenty years. However, she has recently learned the joys of being a grandmother, as her son and his wife, who live in California, have an adorable little girl named Chloe. She also has a daughter and son-in-law in Chicago, and her youngest daughter lives in Springfield. Her family is completed by a Goldendoodle named Munchkin. Kate relates that she dearly loves her dog – except when it rains and she must deal with muddy paw prints all over her wood floors!

In addition to her activities in the League, Kate is an avid reader of historical fiction, science fiction, and the occasional fantasy novel. She says she recently went back to the gym and now works out twice weekly with a personal trainer. As a result, she has rediscovered a love of weight-lifting. We are grateful that Kate has juggled all these pursuits yet continues to be a part of our League!

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The State League will be sending out legislative updates through May. [Click here](#) to read the first one from April 24<sup>th</sup>.



# VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT

Martee Robinson and Madeleine Hooper held a voter registration event at Willard High School on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

