



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

# October 2016 Newsletter

## UNIT MEETINGS

The October unit meetings will be Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Nonna's South, 3512 S. National and Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center.

One of the hallmarks of the League is taking positions on issues of public policy. We have dozens of positions on local issues, which represent a snapshot of what our League has been involved with since our founding in 1952, and it's time to learn more about them (this is our history after all)! At the October unit meetings, we'll refresh ourselves on what has been studied in the past and decide if any of the positions should be restudied or updated. Please print and bring a copy of the positions to the unit meeting (we will have a few copies available at the meetings if you are unable to print them.)

*\*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.*

## VOTER ID FORUM

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:30pm  
Drury University Findlay Student Center Ballroom

This event promises to offer great insight into the Amendment 6 ballot issue. We have a four-person panel to discuss the topic, including a professor with expertise in the election process, a college student, the local director of the NAACP, and a representative from the Southwest Center for Independent Living. These panelists will cover the potential disenfranchisement of students, minorities, the elderly and persons with disabilities, because of the requirement to obtain a photo ID in order to vote. Please support this forum with your attendance and bring a friend, relative or neighbor so they, too, can learn more about the ballot issue.

The state and local leagues are actively opposing Amendment 6. Our committee has joined forces with FaithVoices of Southwest Missouri to help get the word out against this amendment. Take a look at the handout the committee created which we have been sharing at all voter registration events.

[Click here](#) for a summary of Amendment 6

[Click here](#) for the flyer on Amendment 6 for distribution

## BIG YEAR FOR VOTERS' GUIDES!

Not only do we have a brand new jazzy redesign of the Voters' Guide, but we will also print 20,000 copies, which is DOUBLE the amount we printed for the last election! We had such a successful fundraising campaign with local businesses who bought ads in the guide that it allowed us to double our print quantity. These will be distributed to all universities, senior centers, community centers, libraries, business sponsors, and other high traffic locations in Greene and Christian counties on October 17<sup>th</sup>. This means we will need a lot of distribution help on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. If you can help as a delivery driver, please contact Debbie Pitts at [debbiepitts2@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiepitts2@hotmail.com) and she will give you more information and assign you a list of drop-off locations.

## CHECK OUT VOTE411.ORG

Simply type in your address to compare the candidates and review the proposed Amendments on the ballot for the November election. You can even mark your choices and print off a sample ballot to take with you on Election Day. We had 31 of 42 candidates in Greene and Christian counties respond with information. Despite our best efforts to have 100% candidate participation, some candidates opted to not participate. In those cases, the information will state "Candidate was contacted but did not provide information." Many thanks to Cathy Galland who gathered all the candidate information and managed the Vote411 program to get it all set up and published for us!

Announcement from our National League Office:

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking collaboration between Vote411.org and Google. For this first time this election year, the League and VOTE411 have partnered with Google to provide candidate information directly into Google's Knowledge Panels. Information in Knowledge Panels is seen by Google's users who are searching for information about a candidate, so this is a great opportunity for candidates to directly share their core platform and issue stances with Google Users. This means that every single voter across the country will be able to come to VOTE411.org, or search Google, to learn about candidates on their ballot. In short: thanks to this partnership, we anticipate approximately twenty million Americans will see and benefit from the League's unique resources in time for Election Day. What's more, the League will be publicly recognized for this effort. Sustaining and constantly improving one recognized and trusted national voter education resource, with enthusiastic and reliable

participation from hardworking state and local Leagues, is the key to our organization’s long-term prominence in the voter education space. Clearly, Google agrees.

- Kelly Wood, Lisa Langley, Kim Reser, and Lisa Slattery helped with a voter registration event at the Doling Park Neighborhood night out.

## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES’ VOTERS’ GUIDE INFO

Good news! The responses from all four Presidential candidates who met the League’s criteria (Hillary Clinton, Gary Johnson, Jill Stein, and Donald Trump) are live on VOTE411! Each state’s candidate list has been customized so their responses are published alongside the name and party affiliation of all other candidates who did not meet our criteria but will appear on the state ballot.

We will provide details of total numbers of those registered at the events at the upcoming unit meetings. Our next steps include outreach to new voters with phone calls and emails. Email Kelly Wood at [KellyWood@missouristate.edu](mailto:KellyWood@missouristate.edu) if you are interested in those efforts.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Never underestimate what some well-intentioned League members can accomplish. Thanks to all the League members who participated in our numerous events. We hosted 12 voter registration events over the past month, which included partnerships with our local libraries and a special focus on our Zone 1 Blitz neighborhoods, those areas in Springfield that are in need of extra support and resources.

The Rock the Vote event on September 10<sup>th</sup> provided two shifts of registration. We held two events at the Fairbanks community center with short presentations to help with voter education.

Tammy Flippen, the Library Center staff coordinator for the *Rock the Vote* event stated: “We did a lot of preaching to the choir this year, but it was our first attempt,” she says. “There were over 350 attendees at the (Geezer) concert Saturday night and we had way more pledges to vote than we did registrations. The Library takes voter registrations every day. This is a great service and I think our patrons appreciate it very much. It was great having the League of Women Voters in to talk with patrons about registering, we had eight wonderful volunteers that helped throughout the day on Saturday. I look forward to next year!”

We participated in three events on National Voter Registration Day on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Susan Rubino and Marge Bramer hosted a voter registration table all day at the Christian County Library in Ozark. KOLR-10 come to film them and the story was featured on the 5pm and 6pm newscasts that day. Susan said “We didn’t do anything embarrassing!” We have no worries!
- Kelly Wood gave a presentation to the Marshfield Rotary Club about getting out the vote and how local businesses can support that effort.

## Upcoming Dates

### Debate Watch Party

Sunday, October 9, 2016,  
Community discussion at 7:30pm and Debate at 8pm  
Fairbanks Community Center

### Last day to Register to Vote for Nov. Election

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

### Unit Meetings

Monday, October 17 2016, 5:30 p.m.  
Nonna’ South, 3512 S. National  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 12:00 noon  
Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

### Photo Voter ID Forum

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 6:30pm  
Drury University Findlay Student Center Ballroom

### Candidate Forum for Missouri House Districts 132 and 135

Date/Time/Location to be announced

### November General Election

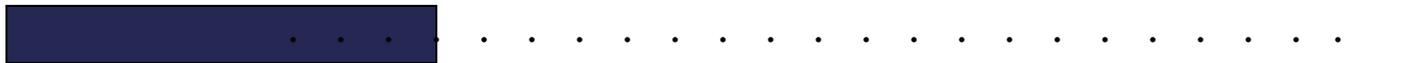
Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 6am-7pm  
Your local Polling Place

### Post-Election Happy Hour

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 5:30pm  
Happy Hour to celebrate the end of the election season! More details soon.

### Annual League Holiday Party

Monday, December 5, 2016; 5:30-8:30pm  
Home of Maggie Castrey



## LISTEN UP!

The radio committee will do a series of election related topics during the month of October on our weekly “*Making Democracy Work*” radio program on the local NPR affiliate. Tune in each Monday morning at 9:43 a.m. to KSMU 91.1. If you miss it on the air, you can listen on the web at <http://ksmu.org/programs/making-democracy-work>.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now! The annual League Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00pm at the home of Maggie Castrey. More details to come in the next newsletter.

## WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE

The Get Out the Vote committee developed a ½ sheet flyer to hand out to anyone that registers to vote. It’s designed to do be a very simple, walk-you-through-the-process resource for those who have never voted and might be unsure of what to do. Check out our latest voter education project [here](#).

## IT’S THE TIME OF YEAR...

It’s time to renew your membership for 2016-17. Please complete the [Membership application](#) and return it, along with your dues, to either the PO Box or bring it to the October unit meeting.

Additionally, please indicate which unit meeting you will be attending. We have an exciting year ahead, full of action. Please indicate your areas of interest at the bottom of the membership form. Your participation is vital to our efforts to educate and inform citizens about active participation in government.

If you have any membership questions, contact Ilga Visa at [ivise@drury.edu](mailto:ivise@drury.edu).

## SOCIAL MEDIA BLAST!

Hear ye Facebook! Hear ye Twitter! Our League sent out a social media email blast to 150 businesses, civic groups, organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and non-profits – and to League members also. The blast included pre-scripted information and drop dates that organizations could use on their webpage, Facebook, Twitter, or company newsletters to promote voter registration, absentee voting, Vote411.org and the Voters’ Guide. This is a first time effort, so we’re anxious to see how many organizations took advantage of

our ready-to-promote social media package. Many thanks to Ann Elwell who pulled all the information together and became our resident social media point person!

## LEAGUE ADVOCACY UPDATE

### Clean Power Plan Gets Its Day in Court

This week, during a [marathon day of oral arguments](#) at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, attorneys representing the EPA, 18 states, power companies, and environmental and public health groups outlined the Clean Power Plan’s strong legal and technical foundation. The League continues to support the historic, life-saving measures of the Clean Power Plan – the first-ever regulations to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants. A decision is expected by the end of 2017.

## PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

### Join the Presidential Debates Conversation – Graphics and Resources

LWVUS has freshened up our debate watching tips, debate party hosting ideas and more. [Take a look at the resources](#), then read an [open letter to the debate moderators](#). Please share these resources widely in your community before and during the remaining presidential debates (VP Debate 10/4, Presidential Debates 10/9 and 10/19).



# MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Filbeck

## Lolita Albers

Member Lolita Albers earned both of her degrees here in Springfield. Her Bachelors in Biology was earned at Southwest Missouri State University and her Masters in Communication is from Missouri State University. She is now retired from Ozarks Public Television, which sounds like a fun job, and it seems like she put her degrees to good use!



Retirement apparently does not mean rest for Lolita, since she spends a lot of time volunteering and staying active. She enjoys canoeing/kayaking at Lake Springfield, hiking, “and generally being outdoors.” Lolita volunteers with Friends of the Library and Storytellers of the Ozarks, so she must be well-read. To satisfy her curiosity, she regularly attends Institute for Mature Learners programs at Drury University. And if that isn’t enough activity, she loves to travel!

Lolita lost her “wonderful husband” over 4 years ago, but counts herself fortunate to have her 2 children and their families. Her daughter, Tracy, and son-in-law, John, live and teach in New York state. They are also the proud parents of granddaughter Wren. Her son Nathaniel and his wife, Becky, live in Portland, Oregon and take full advantage of the outdoor adventures available in the Pacific Northwest. With children on both coasts, it’s no wonder Lolita is always ready to take a trip.

Lolita says she knew of the League by reputation, but never took action to join until she became acquainted with Ilga Vise. And to quote Lolita: “Nuff said!” She says the work the League does to provide accurate and unbiased information to citizens “is essential for democracy” and she is proud to be a part of it.

## Kay Chaudhri



Member Kay Chaudhri is now retired, after a 54-year career as a teacher. She earned her B.A. from Culver Stockton College, with a major in

Chemistry. Her M.A. is from Central Missouri State University, where her focus was on history. In addition to that, she completed summer work at several universities. Between history and chemistry, Kay clearly has a wide variety of interests, which undoubtedly made her an interesting teacher, too!

Kay worked overseas for 18 years, in Bahrain and then Germany. She has also traveled to a lot of other locations as well. Kay enjoys writing non-fiction and has written a book about her time in Bahrain. Her next book is based on letters written between a husband and wife while he served in the army during the Civil War. When she’s not putting together a great and informative story, she enjoys cooking and working in her yard. Nothing like a good book, a good meal, and time spent in the garden! It seems that Kay has her priorities in order.

Kay has a large family, including 4 children (3 sons and 1 daughter), 8 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. She is very proud of all of them. Considering her accomplishments, we suspect they’re proud of her, too!

Kay joined the League because of her interest in “drawing attention to local problems as a first step to finding solutions.” We are happy to have her as part of the team, working hard here in Springfield!

