



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

October 2015 Newsletter

UPCOMING UNIT MEETINGS

October Unit Meetings

The October unit meetings will be **Monday, Oct. 19th** at 5:30pm at Nonna’s South, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, Oct. 20th** at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center, Room 204.

We will have the Part 2 discussion on the *Amending the Constitution* national study. Please review the [study guide](#) to better prepare for the discussion and consensus questions. The last program on this study will be held on November 5th (see General Meeting for more information)

November Unit Meetings

The November unit meetings will be **Monday, Nov. 16th** at 5:30pm at Nonna’s South, 3512 S. National and **Tuesday, Nov. 17th** at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center.

We will take consensus at the November unit meetings on both the national study and position update topics. The consensus questions on the *Amending the Constitution* national study is due to the National League office by December 1, 2015. The consensus questions for the *Money in Politics* position update are due to the National League office by February 1, 2016.

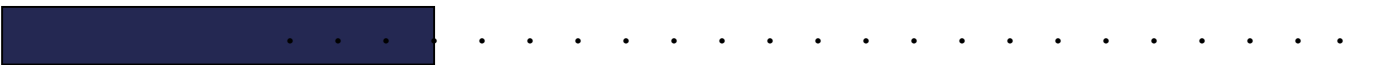
*Directions for Tuesday Unit Meeting: From Central and Summit, go north on Summit and park in the first lot on your right or left. The Student Center is the red brick building in the northwest corner of the parking lot on your left. Go up the stairs by the pergola and Room 204 is immediately inside.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

On September 16, 2015, 50 new citizens were sworn in during the Naturalization Ceremony held on the MSU campus. Each speaker stressed the importance of voting and encouraged the new citizens to register to vote at the League’s table after the ceremony.

Almost 30 new citizens, along with a couple of MSU students, filled out their voter registration cards. It was an exciting time for them, as they exercised their very first right as a new U.S. Citizen!

League members Lolita Albers, Leslie Carrier, and Lois Zerrer helped with this event and agreed it was a very heartwarming ceremony and a special opportunity to witness these people, from 28 different countries, all become members of the “American Family.”



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 5th at 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars to attend our fall General Meeting as we continue to work on the Constitutional Amendment Study and consensus questions. The meeting will be on Thursday, November 5th from 5:30-7:00pm in the CH Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center Auditorium on the 2nd floor.

Address: 2055 S. Fremont Ave, Springfield 65804



Dr. Kevin Pybas, Associate Professor of Political Science, from Missouri State University will facilitate a discussion about the constitutional amendment study. Dr. Pybas' research and teaching interest focus squarely on constitutional law and he is the faculty advisor for the Pre Law Society.

At our general meeting, Dr. Pybas will share his insights into the pros and cons for each of our consensus questions and then engage us in a question and answer session after.

RSVP to: lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE ENTERS EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PHASE

Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 3:30pm
Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

In its role as community advocate, the League of Women Voters is convening a Mental Health Resource Network with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 15th from 3:30-5:30pm. The meeting will be held at Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri, 2130 N. Glenstone Ave, Springfield 65803 (between Dale and High Streets, a little south of Kearney).

All interested community members and providers of mental health services are invited to attend. Please reply to Maggie@maggiecastrey.com if you plan to attend.

Upcoming Dates

Mental Health Resource Network Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015

3:30-5:30pm

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

October Unit Meetings:

Monday, Oct. 19, 2015, 5:30pm

Nonna's South, 3512 S. National

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015, Noon

Drury University Findlay Student Center

General Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2015

5:30pm-7:00pm

CH Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center Auditorium

State League Fall Conference

Saturday, Nov 7, 2015

9:00am-3:00pm

Sedalia – State Fair Comm. College

Drury Meador Center Speaker Series

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

7:30pm

Drury University - Clara Thompson Hall

November Unit Meetings

Monday, Nov. 16, 2015, 5:30pm

Nonna's South, 3512 S. National

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, Noon

Drury University Findlay Student Center

Holiday Party

Monday, December 7, 2015

Time TBA

Maggie Castrey's home

Legislative Action Day

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Jefferson City, MO

State Board Meeting

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Columbia, MO

LEAGUE FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 7, 2015

9:00am-3:00pm

Sedalia at State Fair Community College

The League's annual Fall Conference will be held in Sedalia on Saturday, November 7th from 10:00am-3:00pm.

Registration, which includes lunch, is \$20 before November 1st and \$30 afterwards. The conference will feature innovative programs or events hosted by the different League's across the state. Our league has been asked to present on the *Cand-dating* forum we hosted in March for the City Council candidates.

We have one car load going and would like to fill a second car. We will leave early that morning and return late that afternoon. If you are interested in attending, please contact Leslie Carrier at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

VOTER GUIDE COMMITTEE

If you are interested in serving on the Voters' Guide Committee for next year, contact Leslie Carrier at rlcarrier@sbcglobal.net.

We plan to get an early start after the first of the year to contact our previous sponsors and work on a redesign for the printed version. The November 2016 election will be here before we know it!

Did you know the League is on Facebook and Twitter? Click the icon below to be directed to the Facebook page or Twitter account for our local League and the National League.

Get information about League activities, blog posts, press statements, see photos/videos, action items and new resources from the League!



League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri



League of Women Voters of the U.S.



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DRURY MEADOR CENTER

SPEAKER SERIES

<http://sgfnw.co/IVcAwf2>

The inaugural theme for the Drury University Meador Center for Politics and Citizenship in 2015-16 is **“Created Equal: Civil Rights, Liberties & Citizenship”** and the first featured speaker will be **CNN and NPR analyst and New Yorker staff writer, Jeffrey Toobin.**



Mr. Toobin will speak at 7:30 p.m. on October 28th at Clara Thompson Hall* on the Drury Campus. The event is FREE and open to the public. Toobin's topic will be “Inside the World of the Supreme Court”.

A Harvard Law graduate, Toobin is the author of two bestsellers about the nation's top court – “The Nine” and “The Oath.”

*Clara Thompson Hall is on Benton Avenue, approximately 2 blocks north of Stone Chapel at the corner of Central and Benton.

ANNUAL LWV DUES

Annual LWV dues are paid each fall and help support not only our local League, but also the League of Women Voters of Missouri and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Please print off the form, complete it, and return it with your dues payment. You may give an additional gift (optional) to support the efforts of the League or to grant a scholarship to allow a prospective member to join.

Dues are: Individual \$60, Family (2 or more per house) \$90, and Student \$30.

Click here to get a copy of the form:

[Annual Membership Form](#)

Please mail your dues and membership application to:
League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri
P.O. Box 3036
Springfield, MO 65808-3036



LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

The Missouri General Assembly convened on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 for the annual Veto Session. Governor Nixon vetoed 12 House bills and 6 Senate bills. A vetoed bill is taken up in the chamber in which it originated. An override required 109 votes in the House, and 23 in the Senate. Overrides become effective 30 days after the override date, unless the bill states otherwise.

Here is a brief summary of some of what happened in the Veto Session.

Senate Bills Vetoed

[SB 20 - TAXATION](#) - Creates state and local exemptions to sales and use taxes for material, machinery and energy used by commercial laundries.
VETO OVERRIDDEN Senate 28-4; House 110-46

[SB 24 – TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES](#) - Reduces maximum lifetime benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program from 60 months to 45 months.
VETO OVERRIDDEN in regular session

[SB 224 – A+ SCHOOLS](#) - Requires a student to be a United States citizen or a permanent resident in order to be eligible to receive reimbursements from the A+ Schools Program.
VETO OVERRIDDEN Senate 24-8; House 114-37

House Bills Vetoed

[HB 42 – CHARTER SCHOOLS/TRANSFER FIX](#)
- Expands charter schools, authorizes taxpayer funding for privately operated virtual schools and makes it more difficult for students at unaccredited school districts to transfer to a nearby accredited district.
NOT BROUGHT UP FOR A VOTE, VETO SUSTAINED

[HB 63 - ELECTIONS](#) - Makes changes to laws governing local elections. The bill prohibits former school superintendents from seeking election to the school board of a district at which they previously worked as a superintendent.
VETO OVERRIDDEN in regular session

[HB 116 – RIGHT TO WORK](#) - The legislation prohibits an employer from requiring a person to become a member of a labor organization as a condition or continuation of employment. This bill also contains a provision whereby employers who continue to require union membership may be charged with a class C misdemeanor.
VETO SUSTAINED House 96-63, no vote taken in the Senate

[HB 150 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS](#) - Reduces the maximum duration that Missourians can collect unemployment benefits from the current 20 weeks to a low of 13 weeks, depending on the statewide unemployment rate.

VETO OVERRIDDEN House vote (regular session) 109-53; Senate 24-8

Nixon contends the Senate's 24-8 vote Wednesday for the unemployment bill ran afoul of the Missouri Constitution, because the Senate failed to act — as the House had done — before the regular session ended in May. This may end up in the courts.

[HB 722 – LOCAL CONTROL](#) - Prohibits local governments from enacting ordinances regulating the use of plastic bags by retailers or from establishing local minimum wages that are higher than the state minimum wage.
VETO OVERRIDDEN House 114-46; Senate 23-9

