

# September 2016 Newsletter

## UNIT MEETINGS

The September unit meetings will be Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Nonna's South, 3512 S. National and Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at noon at Drury University Findlay Student Center.

The first meeting of the year will be a "welcome back-get to know you-update on Get Out the Vote efforts" all wrapped up into one! The League has something going on every week between now and the election, so come and be a part of the process!

*\*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.*

## LEAGUE MENTIONS

The League was mentioned not once, but twice, in the most recent edition of the Springfield-Greene County Library issue of Bookends, their newsletter that promotes upcoming programs. The first mention was for our voter registration table at the *Rock the Vote* event on September 10 at The Library Center.

The second mention was to remind everyone to pick up a copy of the Voters' Guide at any branch library and to access the [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) website to pull up a sample ballot for your precinct for election day. It's wonderful to have great partners in the community to help promote what we do best — educate voters and encourage civic participation!

## VOTERS' GUIDE AND VOTE411.ORG

The Voters' Guide is shaping up to be a record production this year! There have been more ad sales than in previous years, so we hope to print more guides to be distributed around Greene and Christian counties. In the past, we've printed 10,000 guides, but we'd like to print 15,000 guides this year since we've had such tremendous response and support from our business community. The guides will be distributed on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> so if you'd like to be part of the driver distribution team, let us know.

The [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) online voter resource site will be active the last week in September. All the candidates in Greene and

Christian counties have been invited to submit their campaign information and respond to a list of questions. This process takes a huge amount of time to track down candidate information (would you believe many candidates do not have a campaign email address?), track candidate responses, and follow-up with those who have yet to respond. We all owe a huge THANKS! to Cathy Galland who has been the wizard behind this process! To check out your sample ballot, go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and type in your address to see a list of candidates and ballot issues for your particular precinct (remember, the site won't be active until late September).

## CELEBRATE THE VOTE FESTIVAL



Celebrate the Vote - Saturday, Sept. 3 in St. Louis. Kelly Wood, Lorraine Sandstrom, Dot Powell and Martee Robinson attended along with at least 300 participants. We had a brief parade

in front of the St. Louis Museum, followed by speakers and vendors. It was a great event to celebrate Missouri women who, 100 years ago, protested silently in 1916 to get women's right to vote on the Democratic platform.

## NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> is National Voter Registration Day, all across the county. We will host voter registration events at the Christian County Library and at Doling Park Community Center. If you would like to work at the Doling Park location, it'll be from 6:00-7:30pm approximately.

Again, email [kellywood@missouristate.edu](mailto:kellywood@missouristate.edu) to confirm your spot. Kelly will have more info on this and will confirm the Doling location in a future email.

# ROCK THE VOTE

Saturday, Sept. 10 at The Library Center.

We have two time slots for voter registration. 12-1:30 and 6:00-8:15. We currently need 3 members to cover the 12-1:30 slot. Please contact Kelly via email [kellywood@missouristate.edu](mailto:kellywood@missouristate.edu) to confirm your spot. We are covered for the 6-8:15 slot, but anyone can join us at the table. We will have all the materials available for you at each time slot, so show up with your best smiles on and your League name tag.

# VOTE NO ON AMEND. 6

By Marjorie Bramer

Amendment 6 to our state constitution will be on the November 8 ballot. This measure threatens the right to vote for Missouri citizens.

If the change passes, voters will be required to show a photo ID in order to cast a ballot. Missourians already have to show a photo ID to register, so the new restriction is not needed. Only a few specific forms of ID would be allowed, and as many as 220,000 people do not have these forms of ID, according to Secretary of State Jason Kander.

Voters would have to show: (1) a non-expired MO driver's license, (2) a non-expired MO non-driver's license or (3) an ID issued by a federal or Missouri state authority, such as a passport or military ID.

This amendment will be especially hard on the elderly, students, the working poor, disabled individuals, and minority voters. These voters may not have the time, ability, or money to obtain the required underlying documents, such as a birth certificate.

Costs for photo ID's would be borne by county election officials and might cost taxpayers as much as \$17 million statewide.

A voter without the required photo ID would have to sign a statement, under penalty of perjury, and could be required to have a photo taken by the election officials. A voter who doesn't sign would have to file a provisional ballot, which would be held until he could obtain the required documents. Voters are already required to show an ID with name and address, and all voters have to sign an affidavit used to verify identity.

There are two opposing trends in voting restrictions nationwide. Legislative action is moving toward more

restrictive voter ID laws. About 30 states require an ID, and 15 require photo ID's. States have increased restrictions since 2013, when the Supreme Court gutted a portion of the Voting Rights Act.

The second trend, found in the courts, is to strike down these laws as unconstitutional. This summer judges ruled against restrictions in five states: Texas, N. Dakota, N. Carolina, Wisconsin, and Kansas.

Voter ID laws are intended to stop voter impersonation, but since 2000 there have been only 36 allegations of voter impersonations out of 800 million ballots cast in national elections. There have been no cases reported in major elections in Missouri. This amendment is a solution in search of a problem.

In May our legislature passed HB 1631, which was vetoed by Governor Nixon in July. The fall veto session may override his veto. The bill provides the enabling legislation for Amendment 6. If the veto is overridden, the new restrictions would begin next summer. If the veto holds, new legislation will be needed.

Amendment 6 reads: "Shall the Constitution of Missouri be amended to state that voters may be required by law, which may be subject to exception, to verify one's identity, citizenship, and residence by presenting identification that may include valid government-issued photo identification?"

The League opposes this amendment, which will be costly, confusing, and will prevent many Missourians from voting.

Our democracy depends on the right of all citizens to vote, and Amendment 6 endangers that basic right.

# LWVSWMO POSITIONS

Each month a different position will be highlighted in the newsletter. A League's position reflects membership understanding and agreement on a particular public policy issue.

## GOVERNMENT

Support adequate revenue for the city's operating fund. (1989; revised 2005) In March 1989, members studied sources of revenue for the city, which included sales tax, licenses and fees, fines, charges, and intergovernmental transfers.

All members agreed that additional funds were needed. Sources of additional revenue discussed were earnings tax, increase in property tax, increase in the cigarette tax, a soft drink tax, auto stickers, increase in the Cable television



franchise tax, and a local gasoline tax. Members did not favor increasing City Utilities payment in lieu of taxes or taking their reserves. Members should undertake a further study when a specific tax proposal is made. In 2005, the wording “Support increased revenue...” was changed to “Support adequate revenue. . .”

## NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, League members were present at the Naturalization Ceremony held at Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield and assisted 56 new citizens register to vote.



## VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

We have lots of events coming up these next two months. Volunteers are needed to work at these voter registration events.

Please contact Kelly Wood at [KellyWood@MissouriState.edu](mailto:KellyWood@MissouriState.edu) directly if you are interested in helping out with any of these dates. [Click here](#) to see the full calendar of events.

- Possible Junior League event, Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-7:00pm
- Rock the Vote, Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Library Center, 12-1:30pm and 6-8:15pm
- Tom Watkins Park Pavilion, Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. We need additional deputy registrars for this event. We will have two time slots, 4:00-6:00 and 6:00-8:00.
- Possible Westport Park Westside Betterment, Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:06pm
- Doling Park, Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm
- Christian County Library, Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 3-7pm

In addition, there will be two Thursday’s scheduled for Fairbanks (dinner and voter education and registration); dates TBD. If interested, contact Lois Zerrer at [loisz@socket.net](mailto:loisz@socket.net).

## Upcoming Dates

### Celebrate the Vote

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Walkless-Talkless Parade  
Saturday, September 3, 2016  
St. Louis, MO

### Unit Meetings

Monday, September 19, 2016, 5:30 p.m.  
Nonna’ South, 3512 S. National  
Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 12:00 noon  
Drury Campus, Findlay Student Center, Room 204

### National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

### Secretary of State Candidate Forum

Thursday, October 6, 2016; 3:00pm  
Oasis Convention Center  
Moderated by the League and hosted by the Missouri Library Association

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

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

### Photo Voter ID Forum

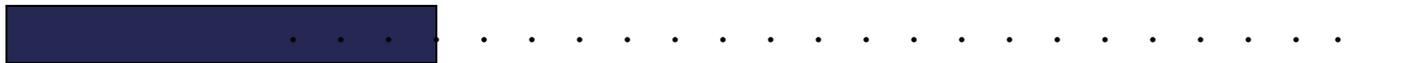
Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 6:30pm  
Location TBA

### 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.



# MEET THE LEAGUE

By Angie Filbeck

## Michele Day



Member Michele Day is a Social Worker who earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Gerontology from Missouri State University. She went on to receive a Master of Social Work, with a focus on Geriatric Case Practice and Family Therapy, from Washington University in St. Louis. Michele capped that off

with a Ph.D. in Social Work from Missouri University, and now serves as the Director of the School of Social Work at Missouri State University.

Michele’s family includes both human and animal members. She has been married for 33 years and her 26-year-old son will graduate from medical school this year. (Congratulations!) Other family members include 2 Pyrenees-mix dogs, a little tabby cat and a Maine Coon cat. Michele says there is “fur everywhere,” but enjoying the company of such a fine group of friends is probably worth it.

In her spare time, Michele enjoys birding and waterskiing. Both of these activities sound interesting, and if she is able to do them simultaneously, we would very much like a demonstration.

Michele has always been “in awe” of the Voter’s Guide and admires the League’s public positions on issues. She decided to follow in her cousin’s footsteps and join the League, especially after learning that many other women she knows professionally are also members. Michele is a busy lady, also volunteering with the Northwest Project at The Fairbanks, the Missouri University Alumni Association (Vice President) and the MSU Gerontology Advisory Group.

## Kim Reser

Member Kim Reser is in Administration at the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, where she has worked since 1997. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from William Jewell College (Liberty, MO) and followed that up at the University of Kansas (Lawrence) by earning a Master of Science in Education, with an emphasis in Sport Administration and Sport Psychology. She is also a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional by the National Parks and Recreation Association.



Kim enjoys a lot of outdoor activities, such as boating and riding a Sea-Doo, playing golf and tennis, walking, biking and working out. However, she also knows how to do the finer things, like “being mindless in a hammock,” of which she can expect great admiration. Other preferred activities are shopping (especially ‘buying’) and socializing and laughing with family and friends. We are currently headed into Kim’s favorite season, Fall, which provides her the opportunity to watch her favorite sports, collegiate football and basketball.

Chalk Kim’s membership status up to master recruiter, Ilga Vise. They met at a Community Partnership of the Ozarks activity and Ilga’s passion for the League won Kim over. Kim says “democracy is special and empowering” and she joined to “support and protect American citizens’ right to vote.”

