

JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

At unit meetings in January, members will take consensus on our state study on Early Voting/No Excuse Voting. To prepare, read the consensus questions on page 2 and attend our general meeting Jan. 9.

Saturday, Jan. 16

9:30 a.m., The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Janet Haworth, leader, 862-9218

Monday, Jan. 18

5:30 p.m. Café Roswitha, 2620 S, Glenstone, north end of Brentwood Center, Lois Woods, leader, 865-7428

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Noon, Drury University, Findlay Student Center. Ann Nelms and Ilga Vise, leaders, 831-9452 or 883-7817



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Early voting: Two county clerks to share their perspectives

The county clerks from both Christian and Greene counties will be the featured speakers at the League's general meeting on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Greene County Clerk Richard Struckhoff and Christian County Clerk Kay Brown will share their views on the issue of early voting/no-excuse absentee voting, which is the focus of our statewide League study.

The program will be held at 10 a.m. at OTC's Center for Workforce Development, 614 N. Washington. *See box, right, for directions to the Center.*

The League study is focused on whether early voting and/or no excuse absentee voting would remove barriers for Missouri voters, improve access to voting and encourage non-voters to cast ballots. Among the questions considered: Would these changes allow an accurate, secure process for Missouri voters?

LWV President Cindy Stephens said of the Jan. 9 meeting, "This will be a great time for our members to compare what they're learned so far with the realities of the office of county clerk." In November unit meetings, members discussed the pros and cons of these proposals.

Consensus will be taken at January unit meetings. Consensus questions have been formulated by a statewide group of League members. *See page 2 for the questions.*

Consensus questions, page 2



COUNTY CLERKS WEIGH IN ON 'EARLY VOTING'

LWV General Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 9
10 a.m.

OTC's Center for Workforce Development, 614 N Washington

Hear from our area's top election officials, Richard Struckhoff and Kay Brown, about early voting, the topic of our statewide League study.

Directions: The Center for Workforce Development is **not** located on the main OTC campus but is near the intersection of Chestnut Expressway and Kimbrough Avenue. Due to the divided median on Chestnut, persons coming from the south may wish to take Kimbrough to Chestnut, turn right on Chestnut. Washington Avenue is on the right, immediately past the Steak Out restaurant. The Workforce Development Center is at the intersection of Chestnut and Washington streets.

League hopeful final health care bill will include public insurance option

Washington, D.C. – League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson has acknowledged the Senate’s passage of health care reform legislation as a step forward in the struggle to extend health care coverage to all Americans.

“The League is encouraged to see the Senate take action that moves health care reform closer to final passage,” said Wilson.

“However, we are extremely disappointed that this deal came at the expense of a public insurance option, an element the League believes is crucial to protecting consumer choice and controlling health care costs in the long-run.

“The harsh reality is that we can no longer afford to do nothing, and key provisions of this bill are a step in the right direction,” Wilson continued. “The Senate bill extends coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans, expands Medicaid coverage for the poor, subsidizes some of the costs of care for individuals, and prevents insurance companies from denying insurance to those with pre-existing conditions or dropping coverage due to an illness.”

“These are historic reforms that should not be underestimated, and will greatly reduce the suffering that has gone on for too long in this health care crisis,” Wilson continued. “Our hope is that the bill that comes out of conference will include these provisions and more, including a government-run insurance option for those who cannot afford private coverage or find ade-

Early voting study: Consensus questions

Prepare for taking consensus at our January unit meetings by reviewing the following questions pertaining to the League’s statewide study of Early and Absentee Voting. Educate yourself on the topic by attending our Jan. 9 general meeting featuring area county clerks. (See story, page 1)

Should the League of Women Voters of Missouri support absentee voting election laws that --

1. No longer require a reason to vote absentee? (Application required)
2. Allow early in-person absentee voting? (Application required)
3. Allow early by-mail absentee voting? (Application required)
4. Eliminates the notary requirement for absentee voters?
5. Should Missouri make available the option of voters being placed on an annual or permanent absentee voting list at the voter’s request?
6. Continue the current practice of placing voters with a permanent disability on a permanent absentee voter list?
7. Develop instructions that are clear and concise to reduce the number of spoiled and uncountable ballots?
8. Should the League support no excuse absentee voting even if it costs more to administer?

Early Voting

9. Should the League of Women Voters of Missouri support early voting?
10. Should the League support early voting for voter convenience, even if it does not increase voter turnout?
11. In which election(s) should early voting be permitted?
 All elections—presidential, state, county, municipal, special
 Some elections – presidential, state, county, municipal, special, at the discretion of the local election authority
 Presidential elections only
 Statewide elections only
 All Federal elections—other elections at the discretion of the local election authority
12. Should the League support a reasonable amount of time to allow early voting?

13. Should the League support early voting even if it increases voting costs?

14. Please check the following voting practices you support.

- Same day voter registration
- Automatically register to vote all 18-year-olds (make it an opt-out program)
- Allow voter registration via the Internet (similar to car license renewals)
- Reduce the number of in-person elections by holding special elections via the mail (issue only, no candidates)
- Move special elections to primary and general election days
- Make federal election day a state holiday
- Move election day to the weekend (Saturday would become the election day.)
- Allow centralized voting via Vote Centers (combined precincts, or super precincts, where any registered voter can cast a ballot, as in Columbia, Mo.)
- Other suggestions – please list.

About our speakers

Our Jan. 9 general meeting will feature two county clerks sharing their views on early and absentee voting.

Richard Struckhoff was appointed Greene County Clerk 1987, and then was elected to an unexpired term in 1988. He has served in that office since then.

Kay Brown was first elected Christian County Clerk in 2002 and has served in that office since then.

Both are Republicans.

READY TO RUN?

Those interested in running for boards of education have until Jan. 19 to file for candidacy.

Contact your local school district office to find out more.

New Member Profile

Shirley Langford brings experiences from Alaska and South Pacific to LWV



Shirley Langford

Shirley Langford is one of the newest members of the League of SWMO. Here's a brief profile, in her own words.

"I am a Louisiana native but have spent all of

my adult years in California, Oregon, Alaska, Marshall Islands and Missouri. I met my husband, Leo, in California shortly after my graduation from high school in Louisiana. We were married a year later and then earned our degrees at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, respectively.

After finishing college, we moved to Alaska where we taught Athabaskan, Aleuts and Eskimo students for the next nine years in three different locations: Bristol Bay Borough School District, North Slope Unified School District, and Galena City Schools.

Our son, Charles, was born while we lived in Bristol Bay and was the first non-native baby born in the native hospital at Dillingham.

While teaching in the North Slope District we were located in a small Eskimo village at Point Hope, the longest continuously inhabited spot in North America. It was a historically rich, interesting but cold place to live.

During the summer of 1975, I had the opportunity to attend the World Conference of International Women in Mexico City, organized by the United Nations in conjunction with work being done on the Equal Rights Amendment. Alongside women from around the world who were leaders in their own countries, we wrote and adopted a set of objectives to promote women's rights around the world.

After teaching three years for Galena City Schools, located on Alaska's Yukon River, we moved to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. Kwajalein is in the South Pacific,

about half way between Hawaii and Japan. This change from the Yukon River to the South Pacific was quite drastic for us. After our first year of teaching on Kwajalein we took a six-week trip around the world.

We moved back to California in 1985, wanting to spend more time near Leo's elderly mother. Also, our son was interested in going to the Air Force Academy and needed to be established in a stateside school.

For the next 18 years, I taught at Mountain Empire Unified School District in San Diego County. At Mountain Empire I served as both director and instructor for the Regional Occupational Program, which is a job-training program for both high school students and adults. My program included computerized accounting, computer applications and yearbook advising. I wore quite a few hats and was quite busy but I loved every minute. The administration twice awarded me "Teacher of the Year" and ROP "Teacher of the Year."

Unfortunately, my teaching career ended abruptly in 2005 when I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. The next two years were spent undergoing chemotherapy and stem cell transplants to bring my cancer into remission. I have now been in remission four years.

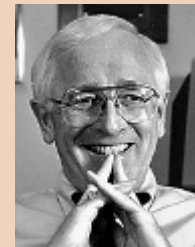
My medical condition made our "retirement" home at Lake of the Ozarks suddenly too far from the medical care I needed, so we bought a home in Nixa.

Coming to Nixa has brought such joy and fun to our lives. We have met the most awesome and interesting people through our involvement with the Missouri Retired Teachers, The Christian County Democrat Club and, certainly not least of these, the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri.

My plans are to stay in remission and devote my time and whatever expertise I have to making Southwest Missouri a better place in which to live."

The League fondly remembers longtime member Lloyd Young who died Nov. 22.

Dr. Young was head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at Missouri State



Lloyd Young

University, retiring in 1997. He was a founder of the Good Community

Committee, the Mayor's Commission on Children and was the inaugural director of Missouri State's Community and Social Issues Institute.

Lloyd spent many years in service to the League, on the Radio Committee, various study committees and on the Board of Directors.

Memorial gifts may be made in Lloyd's honor to LWV of SWMO, attention Treasurer Sharon Matti, P.O. Box 3036, Springfield, MO 65808-3036

**League of Women Voters
of Southwest Missouri**

P.O. Box 3036
Springfield, MO 65808-3036
Phone: 417-881-5877

Visit our website:

www.lwvswmo.org



Making Democracy Work

The League's radio show airs
9:30 a.m. each Monday
on KSMU, 91.1.

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Saturday: Janet Haworth

www.lwvswmo.org

www.lwv.org

www.lwvmissouri.org



**League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri
2010 Calendar**

January

06: Last day to register to vote in Feb.
2 election

09: General meeting: County clerks
weigh in on Early Voting and No-Excuse
Absentee Voting, 10 a.m., OTC's Center
for Workforce Development, 614 N.
Washington

16: Saturday unit meeting: Consensus
on Early Voting study

18: Monday unit meeting: Consensus
on Early Voting study

19: Tuesday unit meeting: Consensus
on Early Voting study

19: General meeting: League program
planning, 6:30 p.m., The Library Center,
4653 S. Campbell

19: Deadline to file for candidacy in
April elections

February

02: Election Day

15: Monday unit meeting: Water Quantity
study

16: Tuesday unit meeting: Water Quantity
study

20: Saturday unit meeting: Water Quantity
study

March

10: Last day to register to vote in April 6
election

15, 16, 20: Unit meetings

00: The Informed Voter: Springfield
Board of Education candidate forum, TBA

April

06: Election Day

17, 19, 20: Unit meetings

May

00: SWMO League Annual Meeting, TBA

June

11-15: National Convention, Atlanta

Program planning on Jan. 19 to help determine studies

Take part in League's grassroots planning

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. And each year, we also use this process to determine local issues for study. This is how we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues.

To get program planning off to a good start:

- Participate in our Program Planning meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell.
- Prepare for Program Planning by looking at Impact on Issues, 2008-2010, which is available on the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org
- Begin thinking about possible issues not covered by current positions well

before the scheduled Program Planning meeting.

- Evaluate possible issues by asking:
 - o Is there widespread member interest?
 - o Is this a timely issue?
 - o Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

PROGRAM PLANNING

Tuesday, Jan. 19

6:30 p.m.

**The Library Center,
4653 S. Campbell
Light snacks and beverages**

Help determine the League's future issues for study, in anticipation of our National Convention in Atlanta in June. We'll also discuss local issues for study. Your input is valued!