

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 18, 2023, at 9:30 AM

Location: Empower Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge.

MONEY IN POLITICS - Speaker: Andrew Crocker,
Political Science Instructor, OTC



Andrew received his BA and MA at Missouri State University. He has been an instructor at OTC since 2007, full time since 2016. He co-sponsors Politically Active, a non-partisan political science club at OTC designed to debate the issues, conduct politically minded activities, and inform students about upcoming elections. He

teaches American Government and Public Policy. Join us in the discussion about money, power, and the influence of ordinary people in American politics.

How are General Membership Meetings and Unit Meetings different?

General Membership Meeting - Full membership meetings on significant topics. Held on the third Saturday of the scheduled months at 9:30 AM at Empower Abilities. Subject/topics determined by the membership. Check the Newsletter or Website for the schedule.

Unit Meetings - Smaller group meeting than General Meetings. There are two options for our members to choose from, the third Monday at 5:30 PM or the third Tuesday at Noon of the scheduled months. Each member selects the meeting that best fits her/his own schedule. There are speakers at each of these meetings. Although the subject is the same at each meeting, the speaker may not always be the same. Monday nights at The Pitch and Tuesday noon at Schweitzer Brentwood Library. Subject/topics determined by the membership. Check the Newsletter or Website for the schedule.

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Mark your calendar! The LWVSWMO Holiday party will be Monday, December 11, 2023, from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Mahua's home. A separate detailed email invitation will be sent to members.



We will be collecting donations for the O'Reilly Center for Hope. Suggested items include Hot hands, Travel Size Hygiene Products (Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash), Razors, Dude Wipes, Long & Short Socks (all sizes), Chargers (all kinds), and cash donations to be used for bus passes (checks can be made out to Community Partnership of the Ozarks – O'Reilly Center for Hope).

NEW LWVSWMO COMMITTEE & ACTION TEAM STRUCTURE

The newly approved [structure for committees and action teams](#) allows members to get involved in a variety of initiatives and committees that fall under key topics that they may be passionate about. As a part of the newly approved structure, the establishment of new action teams includes a Fundraising Team and an Education Committee.

The Fundraising Team focuses on core fundraising efforts for the LWVSWMO. This includes yearly fundraising efforts, auctions and donations. This group works in partnership with the Treasurer to increase core income. For those interested in participating in fundraising efforts, connect with our Treasurer, Kelley Nicholas at kstill@drury.edu

As one of the main priorities of the League is education, the Education Committee works to address local issues related to education. This includes funding, book banning, curriculum, and more. 1-2 members of this local Education Committee will serve on the Board approved Statewide Education Committee, along with members from Leagues across the state. For those interested in participating in the Education Committee, please contact Cindy Mueller at cndymllr@gmail.com

LEAGUE MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD FROM NAACP

Co-presidents Sherry Buchanan and Emily Fessler congratulate Joan Gentry for receiving the W.E.B. Dubois Education Award at the 2023 NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.



Joan received this well-deserved honor for protecting democracy through her tireless efforts to promote public education and voter education. She serves on our chapter’s Board, heading our Voter Services Committee and our Observer Corps. She is also on the LWVMO State Board. We are proud of you, Joan, and so grateful for your dedication.

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OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Observer Corps members continue to attend school board meetings in Ozark, Nixa and Springfield and the Christian County Public Library Board meetings.

Moms for Liberty questioned the Springfield Board of Education’s refusal to allow U.S. Constitutions to be distributed to all 8th grade students. Board members considered whether to add “gender identity and sexual orientation” to anti-discrimination board policies, in particular regarding school nutrition programs and food service workers. The board voted 4 -3 to not include the two phrases in the current board policies.

The Ozark School Board held its first Townhall on October 10. The format followed allowed for questioning from the audience and from online and included time limits for answers from board members. The next townhall will be held in December. Outbursts occurred several times during the October school board meeting which resulted in several attendees being asked to leave. After repeated warnings, the board was able to continue with the board agenda as written.

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

Voter Registration: September ended with registration tabling at Ozark High School and Ozark Innovations Center, the O’Reilly Center For Hope, the Fairbanks Fall Festival, the C-Street CultureFest and the Farmers’ Markets. October tabling continued with two more Farmers’ Markets, Soak Up Springfield, The PTTP’s Voting Fair, the Naturalization Ceremony, the CASA Youth Resource Fair, the KY3 sponsored Seminole Holland Block Party and we were present during the Sierra Club’s Sustainability 101 presentation and at the O’Reilly Center for Hope. So far, the League and PTTP have registered some 360 folks. At this time, we have six tabling events scheduled during November.

Education and Advocacy: Our collaboration with NAACP and Faith Voices continued with a second “Supporting Democracy: One Vote at a Time” presentation made to Faith Voice members. And a discussion with some of the Rare Breed youth provided insight into the issues they face as the result of housing insecurity as well as where local support can be found.

PTTP: Paws to the Polls celebrated Voter Awareness Week; Oct 16 – 19, 2023, with a Voter Fair held on Wednesday. Voter registration/education tabling events and other activities occurred on the MSU campus all four days. PTTP members made a presentation on voting to PROMO (LGBTQ advocacy group), hosted a Trivia Night, and sponsored a social media contest. Elected officials from Greene County, including SPS school board and city council members, county elected officials and local state legislators were invited to attend the Voting Fair, eat pizza, and talk informally with students about their roles as elected officials. The County Clerk’s Office had both the DS200 vote tabulating machine and the Express Vote machine on hand to provide students with hands-on experience with both machines. 78 students registered to vote during the four days.

DEI UPDATE

The DEI Committee will meet with Shelby Butler of Empower: Abilities for a RAP survey training on Wednesday, November 8, at lunchtime. We will meet at a restaurant (to be determined) to learn how to evaluate for disability access. Anyone interested may contact Cynthia Erb at cynerb@gmail.com.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

The Environment and Sustainability Committee came together for two events this month. On October 19 we met at the Schweitzer-Brentwood Library to listen to Laurie Davis and Ashley Krug present “Sustainability 101.” Our event was well-attended, and we learned about the three pillars of sustainability.



Later that week, on October 21, we picked up trash along Sunshine Street.

Our final trash pickup will be Saturday afternoon, November 18, at 1:30, after our general meeting.

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RADIO PROGRAM

Have you listened recently to our weekly Making Democracy Work program on KSMU radio? The League hosts a weekly program, every Monday at 9:45am, on KSMU 91.1FM. In case you missed the most recent episodes, you can click here to browse through the archives for topics you might want to listen to now: [Making Democracy Work](#).

October 2: [UMSL professor shares insight into research exploring gender parity on civic boards and commissions in Missouri](#)

October 9: [New program helps communities connect through neighborhood home improvement projects](#)

October 16: [Dream Center helps Springfield families achieve long-term stability](#)

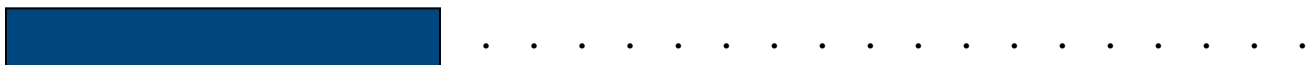
October 23: [Rural hospital closures around the state mean residents have to travel 1 to 2 hours for medical care](#)

RIGHT TO READ COALITION

The LWVMO Board and our local Board have recently voted to join the Missouri Right to Read Coalition. As highlighted in the most recent [LWV MO Voter](#), “This statewide coalition wants Missouri’s libraries to remain as an open, accessible resource for books and other materials available free of charge to the public. The coalition has just recently been formed to address concerns about recent actions that lead to censorship of materials. Libraries have collection development policies that are followed by trained librarians and educators to purchase materials. Parents always have the right to determine which materials their own children can access, but not to determine the selection for other people’s children. The League’s position has long been supportive of public libraries and the role they play as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.”

Individual members are also encouraged to join the coalition.

Their [Right to Read](#) page can be found on Facebook. Their email is righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com. You can join as an individual at this link. <https://form.jotform.com/231834150341143>



TRACKING STATE LEGISLATION

League interactions with our state legislature are one of our civic obligations and privileges. The statewide Legislative Tracking Team that produces weekly Legislative Bulletins during legislative sessions is gearing up for a critical 2024 session. Legislative priorities will be identified by LWVMO. Tracking teams will concentrate on specific priorities as they follow bills and provide advocacy suggestions for the Legislative Bulletins. If you are interested in helping with this essential LWVMO service, please contact Sherry Buchanan at sherrybuchanan66@gmail.com.

UPCOMING DATES

DEI Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Deputy Registrar Training

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 2pm
Friday, December 8, 2023, 10am

General Meeting

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 9:30am
Empower Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge.

Trash Pickup

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 1:30pm
Sunshine Street

Winter Holiday Party

Monday, December 11, 2023, 5-7pm

LWVMO Fall Conference

Saturday, November 4, 2023
Boone County Electric Co-Op Bldg.
Columbia, MO

LWVMO Spring Conference

June 8, 2024
Location TBD

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SUPPORT THE HEALTHY FAMILIES & MINIMUM WAGE PETITION

The LWVMO Board has voted to fully support the Healthy Families and Minimum Wage petition which will put the following questions on a 2024 ballot. Shall Missouri law be amended to: increase minimum wage to \$13.75 in January 2025 and to \$15 by 2026, with CPI adjustments starting in 2027; and require employers to provide one hour of earned paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked?

Exemptions are provided for educational, governmental, political entities and for employers with less than \$500,000 in annual gross sales revenue. Women, people of color, and part-time workers are disproportionately impacted by low wages and lack of paid sick leave. These proposed improvements fit more than one of LWV's policy priorities. Petitions, sponsored by Jobs with Justice, will be available for signing at several of our upcoming meetings.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

League of Women Voters getting out the vote in 1955

Springfield-Greene County Library District
For the News-Leader

Fifteen cars were scheduled to participate in the 'Get Out the Votes' parade sponsored by the League of Women Voters.



The plan was to drive through the northside business district and then the downtown area in the morning and wind their way through residential neighborhoods in the afternoon. The purpose of the

campaign was to urge people to vote on a sewer bond at the upcoming Sept. 13, 1955 election.