

## The Voter

### ANNUAL MEETING

The LVWSWMO Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:30pm at Empower: Abilities.

in advance for set-up, but you many also bring them to the event on May 20th.

### LWVMO SPRING

### CONFERENCE

We hope that you plan to join us at the LWVMO Spring Conference on June 8 in St. Louis! It will be held at the Ethical Society (and also online).

Register now for the 2024 Spring Conference. The schedule includes:

- Election security overview by St. Louis City Elections Director Ben Borgmeyer
- State Librarian Robin Westphal on library censorship
- M'Evie Mead from the Will of the People coalition with an initiative petition update
- "How to Be the Face of the League" trainings on DEI and non-partisanship
- A presentation from Voices of American HerStory
- Youth voting update from Kathleen Farrell

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER:  
We have a lot of work to do!**

**2024 LWVMO Spring Conference**

**Where: St. Louis**  
**When: Saturday, June 8, 9 am to 3 pm**

**Topics include: Election Security; How to be the Face of the League; Library Censorship; Youth Voting; and League Work on Initiative Petitions**

Watch for registration information at [LWVMO.org](https://LWVMO.org)



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

Monday, May 20, 5:30 pm  
Empower Abilities  
1450 W Cambridge Street

Dinner includes Bambinos pasta, dinner & dessert!

**"LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN READERS"  
FUNDRAISER**

PRESENTED BY PAWS TO THE POLLS

**Bring Browse Buy**

Donate your books to sell  
*- all genres, for all ages & in good condition -*  
either bring ahead of time to MSU May 13-17 (details TBA)  
or the day of event

All proceeds go to LWVSWMO  
Books not reclaimed will be donated to Friends of the Library

\$15.00 at the door or online, [Click here](https://lvvswmo.org/donate/) or visit  
<https://lvvswmo.org/donate/>

Dinner will be catered by Bambinos and includes iced tea, dessert, and gluten free/vegan options. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Deadline to sign up is May 13, 2024.

You can bring cash or a check to a meeting, pay online on our website <https://lvvswmo.org/donate/> or mail a check to:

LWVSWMO  
PO Box 3036  
Springfield, MO. 65808

[Click here](#) for Instructions for Book Drop-Off for Fundraiser Event at Annual Meeting. Drop-off dates and times vary by location – see specific information for each drop-off point. We prefer that you drop off books

To register, go to [LWVMO Spring Conference | MyLO](#). There's an early-bird special of \$35 for in-person participation that includes lunch. That goes up to \$40 on May 23. You can also join by Zoom for just \$10.

The Ethical Society is located just west of I-64 at 9001 Clayton Road between McKnight and Brentwood. The Brentwood Drury Inn has double rooms for \$175. Other nearby lodging options include the Clayton Plaza, Courtyard Marriott and Homewood Suites.

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Friday, May 17, will be the last day of the 2024 Missouri Legislative Session. This is always a crucial time when strange things can happen. It is very important to respond to calls to action in weekly Legislative Bulletins from LWVMO. Please spend a few minutes each week taking recommended actions: phone calls, emails, face-to-face contacts with legislators. Please remember to advocate as an individual, not mentioning LWV in your contacts. Thanks to all members who have participated in legislative advocacy this year!

## LEGISLATIVE CALLS TO ACTION

Members are urged to use the weekly LWVMO Legislative Bulletins and devote time each week to follow through on Calls to Action. Even 5 minutes a week can make an impact! Remember to communicate with legislators as individuals, not in the name of LWV. You can voice your opinions to any senator and representative, not just your own. But it is important to mention that you are a constituent if communicating with ones from your district. Easy follow through on Calls to Action can be found at the top of the Bulletin, right under the date. [Click here to view the LWVMO Legislative Bulletins.](#)

## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Due to severe weather, the trash pickup for April 28 was canceled. We will meet, rain or shine, on May 4 at 9:00 am at 1010 West Sunshine St.

Future dates include:

- Saturday, October 19, 9:00 am
- Saturday, November 2, 9:00 am

Also, we are invited to attend the “Trees Are Invisible” presentation, given by Dan Chiles, on Monday, May 6, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Community Room at the Schweitzer-Brentwood Branch Library.

## UPCOMING DATES

### Cinco De Mayo Fiesta

Grupo Latinoamericano  
Thursday, May 4, 2024, 5:00-9:00 pm  
Springfield Art Museum

### Trees Are Invisible Presentation

Monday, May 6, 2024, 6:30pm  
Community Room, Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

### Deputy Registrar Training Dates

Community Room B, The Library Center  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 9:30am  
Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 1:00pm  
Friday, September 13, 2024, 10:00am

### Education Committee Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024, 1:00-3:00pm  
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

### Annual Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2024, 5:30pm  
Empower: Abilities

### LWVMO Spring Conference

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:00am-3:00pm  
Location: The Ethical Society  
9001 Clayton Rd. St Louis, MO 63117

### Trash Pick-Up Dates

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:00am  
Saturday, October 19, 2024, 9:00am  
Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9:00am



## DEI UPDATE

The GLO Center and PFLAG Springfield/SWMO have created a community needs assessment survey for the LGBTQIA+ community in southwest Missouri. If you or someone you know would be interested in completing the survey, [click here](#). Contact Aaron Schekorra at [aaron@glocenter.org](mailto:aaron@glocenter.org) for information.

Grupo Latinoamericano presents Cinco De Mayo Fiesta May 4, 5-9 p.m. at the Springfield Art Museum. This is a free event. This year's festivities will feature live mariachi, folkloric dancers, and an array of food trucks. Don't miss out on the opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich traditions of Cinco de Mayo!



## VOTER AND ELECTION SERVICES UPDATE

Deputy registrars ended April with back-to-back events held at the O'Reilly Center of Hope, Harmony House, the Marshfield Cherry Blossom Naturalization Ceremony and Earth Day. We registered 35 folks.



The last two were “weather challenged” events, with heavy rain and gale winds during the naturalization ceremony and winds and rain threats on Earth Day. But, in true fashion, we persevered. We begin May’s registration schedule with the Wilson Creek Battlefield Naturalization Ceremony and two days at Artsfest.

The League participated in a Civics on the Square event hosted by the History Museum. Three registrars explained the purpose of voter registration to small groups of girl scouts as they worked on various badges associated with civics. We have two more similar types of events scheduled at the History Museum for the first part of May.

The Informed Voter Coalition is estimated to have reached approximately 60,000 people for the April election. New additions to the interviews included candidates in Willard, Nixa and Ozark.

Look for the buses with the election dates for 2024. They have been updated and are around town.



# 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](#).

April 1: [Greene County Clerk shares voting reminders ahead of April 2 general municipal election](#)

April 8: [How does a friendly rivalry become a beloved annual tradition](#)

April 15: [Baking pans, seeds, musical instruments and, of course, books are just a few of the items you can check out at the Christian County Library](#)

April 22: [Springfield nonprofit art collaborative seeks to 'bridge the gap between dreams and realities'](#)

April 29: [Simorah Stogner says working in the tech industry is a chance to be 'a part of creating the world we live in'](#)

# PAWS TO POLLS UPDATE

By Oscar Peterson, Grace Wasson and Suzanne Walker-Pacheco

Our First Fundraiser event on April 19<sup>th</sup> was an enjoyable trivia night, "The Power of the Vote," held at Q Enoteca wine bar, owned by Lyle Foster.



The event was at maximum capacity for the venue, and members of the winning team (The 3 Amigos) received our Vote Tote filled with great swag.

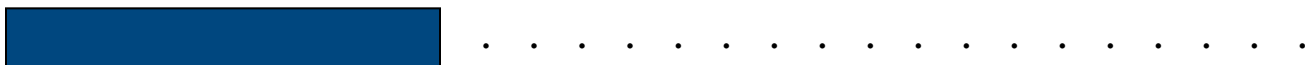


Our mascot "The Bill" from Schoolhouse Rock was on hand to pose for photos with enthusiastic guests. Don't miss our next trivia night this fall!



Paws to the Polls produced our "What's on Your Ballot" voter guide for the April 2nd municipal election and

held a local election candidate forum on March 27th on campus. We also tabled at the April 2nd election, setting up shop outside the Central Polling Location at the Welcome Center to answer questions and award voters with "I Voted" buttons.



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Paws to the Polls hosted a spring voting fair on March 5<sup>th</sup> in order to bring attention to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> municipal election. Over 400 students and 16 campus offices/organizations participated, as did the League of Women Voters, the Informed Voter Coalition, and Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller. Community partner Pickleman's Gourmet Café brought free cookies. We had a photo booth, free food, voting games and a tie-dye booth so students could tie-dye their own Paws T-shirts.



We also held voter registration at two locations at Brick City for voter registration on March 4<sup>th</sup>.



May 2024

We have established a collaboration with the Art and Design Department at MSU, with two significant outcomes this spring: they designed our local election voter guide, and we now have a new logo!



Our sixth meeting on campus with an invited member of the House of Representatives occurred on February 15<sup>th</sup>, when Representative Melanie Stinnett (R) of District 133 came to visit with us. We had a productive and enjoyable discussion about voting access and how legislators can work together across the aisle in Jefferson City.

