

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



P.O. Box 3036
Springfield, MO 65808-3036

www.lwvswmo.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

2023-2024 BOARD

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sherry Buchanan - Co-President | Susan Cadwallader - Director | Cindy Mueller - Director |
| Emily Fessler - Co-President | Jane Earnhart - Director | Jill Smull - Director |
| Lisa Slattery - Vice President | Joan Gentry - Director | Sue Walker - Director |
| Cynthia Erb - Secretary | Lisa Langley - Director | Suzanne Walker-Pacheco - Director |
| Kelley Nichols - Treasurer | Pam Shaver - Director | Liz Wertz - Director |
| Anissa Barber - Director | | |

Nominating Committee: **Jill Smull, Kay Murnan, Ann Elwell**

Representatives to State League Board of Directors: **Marge Bramer, Joan Gentry**

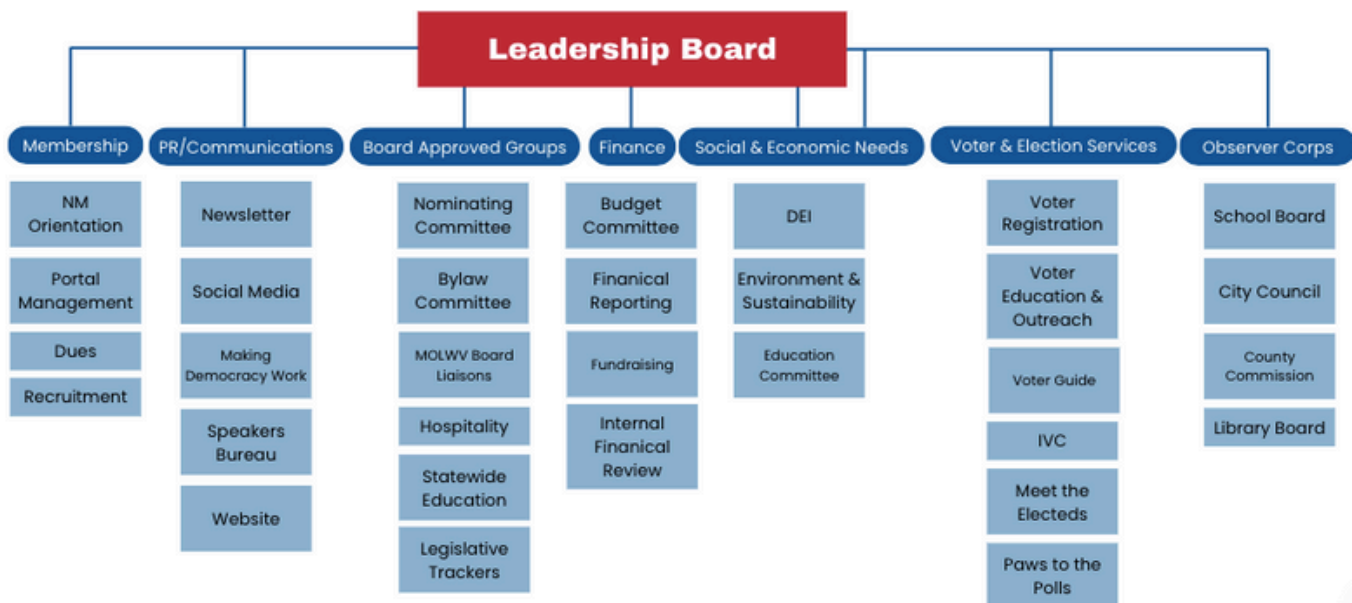


2023-2024 BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Google Drive Switch
- Committee restructuring
- Spirit of Independence at the Art Museum
- Presentations at State meeting
- New Banner
- CPO Gun Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Collaborative
- Labor Day Parade Participation
- Signature collection for 2 initiative petitions

COMMITTEE & ACTION GROUPS

In the 2023-2024 year, one of the most significant feats that the Board accomplished was restructuring the League’s committee & action teams - as a part of this process to streamline communications and positions, we were also able to establish a few new ones, including a fundraising team and an education committee. The beautiful part in this development was to be able to better visualize the work that is being done through this categorization and help new members to better learn about all the activities and work groups of the League and determine where they can see themselves in that work.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As a member of LWVSWMO, you are an important voice for local issues. As one of 1500 members of the League of Women Voters of Missouri, your work and your voice are a powerful force in Jefferson City. This year's accomplishments include:

- Joined a lawsuit in state court opposing HB 1878, restricting citizens' ability to vote and the League's ability to accomplish its work.
- Endorsed the Reproductive Freedom Ballot Initiative.
- Joined the LWVUMRR (LWV of the Upper Mississippi River Region), a separate organization that focuses on reducing the amount of nutrients discharged into the Mississippi River.
- Issued weekly legislative bulletins
- Formed a statewide Education Committee to support public schools and assure equity funding.
- Support a lawsuit filed by the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and members of Missouri Faith Voices.
- Presented state awards to Lisa Langley for the Informed Voter Coalition and Dr. Suzanne Walker-Pacheco for Paws to the Polls, bringing awareness of these two important groups to all members statewide.
- Joined the Right to Read Coalition, working with more than two dozen organizations to assure that libraries remain an open, available and valuable resource for all Missourians.
- Continued the fight against unneeded and burdensome requirements that restrict and discourage voting.
- Through the state president and vice-president (Marilyn McLeod and Nancy Copenhaver) you made nearly weekly trips to Jefferson City to testify for or against many pieces of legislation.
- Voted to support the Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages ballot initiative.
- Opposed any efforts to restrict or redefine the Initiative Petition process.

Local Membership

- 155 active members were reported to League Roster Management
- 63 members are currently using the new Remind system
- Membership Drive was established during the month of December
- Membership Christmas Social 2024
- Membership Process Document created
- New Member Orientation on March 9th
 - 8 New members attended
- All documents created were placed in a folder for New Member Orientation on the Drive



Members of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri at an Annual Meeting.

Public Relations & Communications

- Letter to the Editor
 - Joan Gentry, Don't Believe Missouri Lawmakers Trying to Redefine 'Majority Rules'
- Increased Presence on Facebook and Instagram
- Informed Voter Coalition Interviews launched on the website
- Over 40 Making Democracy Work Programs
- National Library Week Campaign on Social Media
- Membership Renewal Campaign on Social Media

Total deliveries

1,200 ↑ 29% compared to previous 364 days

Impressions ⓘ
29.5K ↑ 75.7%

Reach ⓘ
8.4K ↑ 52.7%

Content interactions ⓘ
789 ↑ 44.5%

Observer Corps

Greene County:

- Monthly SPS Board Meetings
 - Addressing Issues During Public Comment Periods
 - Gender & Gender Identity
 - Mis & Dis- Information
 - Civil Discourse

Christian County:

- Monthly Ozark and Nixa School Board Meetings
- Monthly Christian County Library Board Meetings



The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri Co-Presidents, Sherry Buchanan and Emily Fessler, spoke during the public comments section of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education meeting.

Finance

2023- 2024 Financial Highlights:

- Income from Membership Dues: \$5,955
- Contributions from Members: \$1,147
- Contributions from Non-Members: \$1,000
- Current Balance in Checking: \$22,696.14
- Current Balance in CD: \$20,000
 - Interest by July in CD: \$583

Social & Economic Needs

➤ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Restaurant Access Points (RAP) Training & Evaluations of 3 Restaurants
- Community Events:
 - World AIDs Day
 - "Brown V. Board of Education at 70" Lecture
- Discussions on LWVUS's new DEI Policy
- NAACP Banquet

➤ Environment & Sustainability

- Trash Pick Up (3 times/year)
- Collab with White River Sierra Club on Environmental Forums
 - Sustainability 101
 - Our Animal Waste Crisis
 - Trees are Invisible
- Advocacy
 - Public Seats on the Missouri Clean Water Commission
 - Pomme de Terre River Dumping
 - Lake Springfield Renovations

➤ Education

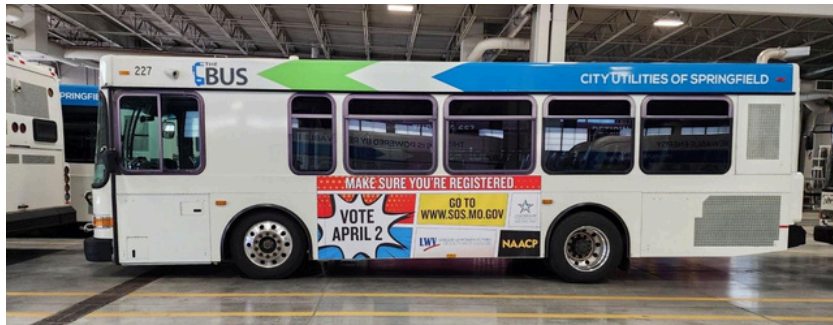
- Formed in November 2023
- Policy Statement Research (National, State, Local)
- Censorship & Threats to Public School Funding
- Joined the Right to Read Coalition
- National Library Week



LWV of SWMO co-presidents Sherry Buchanan and Emily Fessler congratulate Joan Gentry for receiving the W.E.B. Dubois Education Award at the Springfield NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.

Voter & Election Services

- 77 Registration Events in Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties
- 465 Voter Registration Applications Turned into County Clerks!
- Registration Events at:
 - MSU and Drury University, Springfield and Ozark High Schools, Naturalization Ceremonies, Artsfest, Pridefest, Juneteenth, O'Reilly Center for Hope, Harmony House, Eden Village, Senior Residential Living Centers, and many more!
- Presentations and Speaking Events at:
 - Glo Center, NAACP Events, National Voter Registration Day, History Museum, and more!



Through partnership with Springfield NAACP & Leadership Springfield, bus wraps are now circulating the in Springfield to promote registering to vote and voter turnout in the April, August & November elections.

Paws to the Polls

- “The Power of the Vote” trivia night fundraiser
- Local Election Candidate Forum with all seven Springfield School Board candidates
 - “What’s on Your Ballot” municipal election voter guide
- Over 400 students and 16 campus offices/organizations participated in the voter fair
- Collaboration with the Art and Design Department
 - New logo and a set of proscribed branding rules.
- Conducted voter registrations at Hillcrest, Kickapoo, Central, Study, and Glendale high schools.
- Paws to the Polls 4th advocacy trip to the Missouri State Capitol resulted in ten meetings with legislators.
- Voting Fair, “Spotlight on Local Government”
- Youth Civic Leadership Institute



Boomer the Bear at the 2023 Voter Fair wearing a Paws to the Polls shirt.

Thank You: Co-Presidents 2023–2024

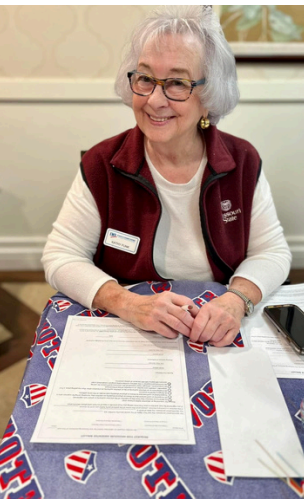
We express our deepest gratitude to Sherry Buchanan and Emily Fessler for your outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication, and tireless efforts in steering our collective vision forward.

Throughout your tenure as co-presidents, you have exemplified the true essence of teamwork, collaboration, and commitment. Your ability to inspire, motivate, and unite our members toward common goals has been nothing short of exceptional. Your leadership has left an indelible mark on our organization.

Sherry Buchanan



Emily Fessler



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

