

## The Voter

### OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS

**Topic:** Ballot Initiatives and the League!

**Speakers:** Sandy Michaels, Joan Gentry, Liz Wertz  
Monday, October 20th at 5:30 PM at the Pitch Pizza & Pub (2924 E Sunshine St, Springfield, MO 65804)  
Tuesday, October 21st at Noon at Schweitzer Brentwood Library (2214 S Brentwood Blvd, Springfield, MO 65804)

#### Information:

There's a lot of campaigns and organizations doing a lot of work right now! Join us for our October Unit meeting to talk about the ballot initiatives gathering signatures in our state and how the league plans to engage in the fights coming up this next legislative session. Join us for an engaging conversation with league members! We will talk about:

- Respect Missouri Voters
- People Not Politicians
- Initiative Petition attack
- Upcoming fight around Reproductive Freedom in 2026

### NO KINGS DAY

March and Protest in Springfield, MO  
Saturday, October 18th  
11:30 AM

LWVUS is joining No Kings 2 as a national partner on Saturday, October 18. LWVUS has decided to become an official partner for this day of mobilization to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism. The League has consistently and boldly spoken up in the face of rising authoritarianism. This is an opportunity to put words into action and show up in defense of democracy and as an effective ally.

We encourage members of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri to participate in a **nonpartisan** manner. We understand that we cannot control how other partners show up, and participating in any event comes with some risk.

**NO KINGS DAY**  
MARCH & PROTEST (SPRINGFIELD, MO) | SAT OCT 18TH 11:30 AM  
Park At: Phelps Grove Park (parking lot/nearby street)  
Meet At: Bennett & National (By the tennis courts) to march to protest site  
OR just meet us at protest site (Sunshine & National)  
Car Pools Encouraged  
GREATER SPRINGFIELD INDIVISIBLE | NO KINGS | 501

If representing the League or wearing LWV shirts (which we encourage), please use good judgment when creating signs and participating in nonpartisan chants. If you want to wear a League t-shirt, members should also have completed the mandatory DEI & Nonpartisan training, as this is a forward-facing opportunity.

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New member orientation has been scheduled for Saturday, October 18 from 10:30-12:00 at Brentwood Library.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Is it time for you to pay your annual dues?  
Click here to pay online: [portal.lwv.org](https://portal.lwv.org)

To pay by mail send a check to:  
League of Women Voters of SW Missouri  
PO Box 3036  
Springfield, MO 65808-3036

# JEDI & NONPARTISAN TRAINING

Last year, the LWVSWMO Board of Directors voted to implement a mandatory DEI & Non-Partisan Training for all LWV SWMO volunteers in alignment with our DEI Statement and Non-Partisan Policies. Our community looks to the League as experts, and our members uphold the values and positions of the League. These trainings will take place quarterly and must be done to be a forward-facing LWV SWMO member. If a member is on multiple committees and/or action teams, they only need to attend the Training once.

## Tuesday, October 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85057125331?pwd=8DmCPUzahReiUXUy4VS4uqrqc2hGby.1>  
Meeting ID: 850 5712 5331  
Passcode: 614594

## Sunday, January 25th at 4:00 PM

Zoom Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86890920701?pwd=OZZ8MEkiI4VpTJsvWKyUcnEHNsLDaZ.1>  
Meeting ID: 868 9092 0701  
Passcode: 740962

Following the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, LWV WMO members must sign onto the LWVSWMO Volunteer Handbook, which includes volunteer signatures on our DEI Statement and Non-Partisan Policy. Signature to the LWVSWMO Volunteer Handbook signifies completion of the Training, and commitment to the League's values and positions on DEI and Non-Partisanship. If you have any questions regarding the implementation of the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, please connect with Co-Presidents Liz Wertz ([elizabethwertz220@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethwertz220@gmail.com)) and Sandy Michaels ([slm7593@gmail.com](mailto:slm7593@gmail.com)).

# JEWELRY FOR BOOK BAGS FOR KIDS ANNOUNCEMENT

Sheila Michaels, our speaker for last month's unit meeting, is in need of more used jewelry! She sells these items to fund her book bags for kids program, and she sold everything she had at last Saturday's Pridefest on

October 2025

C-Street. If you have old jewelry you can donate, please bring it to the October 20 unit meeting at the Pitch. Pam Shaver will collect it from you and get it to Sheila. Thanks to all!

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The New Member co-chairs are still seeking New Member Mentors. We are happy to have three members who have signed on to help mentor new members, but we need some more ladies to help as more new members sign up, and to keep it a more manageable number for each mentor. If you would be interested in helping guide our new members by encouraging them to attend general and unit meetings and giving them a friendly face to sit with contact:  
Rebecca Callaway at [cllwyrbcc@yahoo.com](mailto:cllwyrbcc@yahoo.com)  
Sandy Hopper @ [shop91548@yahoo.com](mailto:shop91548@yahoo.com).

# ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

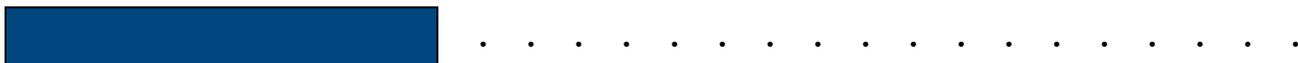
Our Environment & Sustainability Committee will meet to talk about what we can do to protect and enjoy the environment in our beautiful Ozarks. We will gather at 1:00 on October 11 at Mama Jean's, 228 West Sunshine.

Here are a few events coming up that you can attend:

Sierra Club Meet N' Greet: Join the White River Group Sierra Club at the Wire Road Brewing Company, 4453 South Timbercreek Ave, Battlefield, on Wednesday, October 1, starting at 5:00 pm. This will be an evening of meeting Sierra Club members, local chapter leaders, and other folks who care about our environment - AND - to relax in a beautiful location. Hope to see you there!

LOWV Trash Pickup: At 9:00 am on October 25 we will gather at 1010 West Sunshine for our League of Women Voters trash pickup. Again, we will provide the trash bags and trash pickers. This event usually only takes an hour or so.

Seed Gathering Event at Shepherd of the Hills State Park: Visit this brand-new state park, which is not yet



open to the public, to gather seeds from native plants and flowers. We will get started at 9:00, and after we have gathered the seeds, you will get a chance to take a look at this wonderful park. Bring a lunch, rain gear, and sturdy shoes.

LOWV Trash Pickup: At 9:00 am on November 30 we will take part in our final trash pickup for the year. Once again, gather at 1010 West Sunshine.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next Education Committee meeting will be Wed., Oct. 15, 1:00-2:00 at the Brentwood Library. Our topic will be Homeschooling in Missouri since several of us would like to learn more about this growing educational trend. Our September meeting directly followed the general meeting, which featured former Missouri Librarian of the Year, Sheila Michaels. She spoke about her Book Bag program and also about the current state of libraries. One recommendation she gave was to stay in touch with your local library administration and library board.

Many of us who live in Greene County do not want to see the turmoil of the Christian County Library (Sunshine violations, lawsuit in the news, dismantling of long-held library standards and policy, combative and odd public comments at board meetings) move to our library district. A Sept. 25 article in the [Springfield Daily Citizen](#) discusses policy changes for the Christian County Library District and includes some public comments, including those made by our local League. Several education committee members plan to send letters of support to the Springfield-Greene County library admin and board thanking them for providing a large variety of library material and services. We also appreciate their commitment to "Freedom to Read" policies as well as the "Library Bill of Rights." If you wish to share your own support of the Springfield Public Library System, you may mail letters or cards to Springfield-Greene County Library District, 4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65810. Those who wish to send an email may direct comments to Dr. Edward Walton, Library Director at [ewalton@thelibrary.org](mailto:ewalton@thelibrary.org). You may request that your comments be shared with staff, admin, and the Board of Trustees.

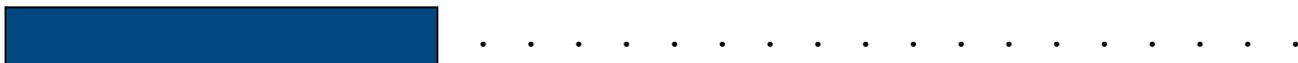
**Banned Books Week** is Oct. 5 -11. It is always interesting to learn what books others do not wish you to read. This year's theme is "Censorship is so 1984." To celebrate our commitment to access to ideas and information, our committee is sponsoring a **Pop Up "Let Freedom READ" event: Wednesday, Oct. 8, 6:00-7:00 PM at Before and After Brewing** in the Southern Hills Shopping Center (near the Pitch). Everyone is welcome to bring a book and join us. We will silently sip and read for the first 15 minutes and then spend the next 45 talking about books.

The image contains two posters. The top poster is for a "Before & After Brewing" event on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at 2940 E Sunshine St., Springfield, MO (Southern Hills Shopping Center). It features a "BANNED BOOKS WEEK" logo and a "CENSORSHIP is so 1984" graphic. The bottom poster is for a "LET FREEDOM READ" Pop-Up Event sponsored by the Education Committee of the LWV Southwest Mo. It includes a "BANNED BOOKS WEEK" logo and a red arrow pointing to the text "ALL are WELCOME!".

## ELECTION HERO DAY

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is proud to announce that it will assume the Managing Partner role of [Election Hero Day](#), a collaborative and nonpartisan national day of celebration recognizing the tremendous contributions that election officials, their staff, and poll workers make to ensure a safe and secure voting experience for all Americans. Since 2020, this civic holiday has brought together nonprofits, business leaders, brands, public officials, and more to honor the election heroes in our communities.

[Read the full announcement from LVWUS here.](#)



## 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](#).

- September 1: [Art thrift store moves to new location](#)
- September 5: [MSU professor shares history of Labor Day](#)
- September 10: [Over 200,000 women have left the workforce since January](#)
- September 16: [SPS Superintendent shares goals for the school year](#)
- September 24: [Farm Succession Planning is Critical Step](#)

**NATIONAL VOTER EDUCATION WEEK**  
OCT. 6-10, 2025

- Register to vote
- Get to know your ballot
- Make a plan to vote
- Understand the process
- Share with friends & family

**VOTE 411**

## UPCOMING DATES

**ALA Banned Book Week**  
October 5-11, 2025

**National Voter Education Week**  
October 6-10, 2025

**Environment & Sustainability Committee**  
Saturday, October 11, 2025, 1:00 PM  
Mama Jean’s, 228 W Sunshine St

**New Member Orientation**  
Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:30 – 12:00 PM  
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

**No Kings Day March & Protest**  
Saturday, October 18, 2025, 11:30 PM

**October Unit Meetings**  
Monday, October 20, 2025, 5:30 PM at the Pitch Pizza & Pub (2924 E Sunshine St)  
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 12:00 PM at Schweitzer Brentwood Library (2214 S Brentwood Blvd)

**DEI & Nonpartisan Training**  
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 5:30 PM (Zoom)  
Sunday, January 25, 2026, 4:00 PM (Zoom)

**Trash Pickup Dates**  
Adopted section of West Sunshine  
October 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM  
November 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM

**Election Hero Day**  
Monday, November 3, 2025

**Special Election**  
Tuesday, November 4, 2025

**LWV National Convention**  
Thursday, June 25 – Sunday, June 28, 2026  
Columbus, OH

