



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METRO ST LOUIS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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DECEMBER 2016

LWV MISSOURI FALL CONFERENCE

The 2016 Fall Conference brought 40+ members from all corners of the state to the State Fairgrounds Community College in Sedalia on November 12. Three excellent speakers shared their expertise in political Journalism, Elections in Missouri and Clean Water. State Board President Elaine Blodgett of Columbia welcomed the group and gave an overview of state activities. The focus of Missouri LWV this year will be Campaign Finance - the dark money in politics. Lael Von Holt, Nominating Comm. Chrm. presented information about the State Board and encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Board to contact her at laelvonholt@gmail.com.

The emphasis on defeating Amendment 6 was discussed with each League giving a report on their efforts. The Metro St. Louis phone banks made over 3,000 calls to voters encouraging them to vote and informing them about Amendment 6.

Rudy Keller, the Columbia Tribune State House reporter informed us of the political trend in Missouri, the results of the Nov. 8th election and the difficulties covering all political happenings in Je City with increasingly limited resources. He made some of the same points Chris Ave made to the Metro League at the Kickoff Dinner in September.



Left to right: Clarissa Bruner, Carol Sawyer, Louise Wilkerson, Pettis County Clerk Nick LaStrada, Catherine Stenger, David Leuthold, Laura Worstell

Following lunch, attendees participated in discussions with other Leaguers about strategies for the Finance in Political focus, speakers and topics for State Convention this spring and Fall Conference in 2017, and current projects within the various Leagues.

Elections and the status of election equipment in Missouri was discussed by Nick LaStrada, Pettis County Clerk. Following the passage of Amendment 6, LaStrada said that some things will change for the elections, depending on the outcome of court challenges. He would like to see Absentee ballotting changed to extended early voting and registration allowed up to and including election days.

Jack Hayes, chemistry professor at SFCC, told us all about clean water and the challenges to safe water. Kathleen Boswell also related her experiences with immigration and the cost of citizenship.

Mary Merri and the Sedalia League were thanked for the outstanding job they did hosting the Fall Workshop. On Friday afternoon, Mary hosted the state board meeting at her home, with a delicious soup supper afterwards.

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THEATER PARTY FUNDRAISER SET FOR DECEMBER 17

Theatre Party is the main annual fundraiser for the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis. Over the years supporters and guests have enjoyed a variety of presentations accompanied by delicious refreshments and enjoyable company. This year's offering of *Buyer & Cellar* by The Stray Dog Theater company promises the same. See the flyer on p.6 for all the details and call the office today to place your Sponsor order. 314-961-6869.





Patience: Remember the Suffragists

One of the wisest things Kathleen heard after the election was from a 90 year old woman who listened to her water aerobics comrades voice despair after the election. The remarks were discouraging: “How could they be so uncivil?” “Why are we turning back the clock on voters’ rights?” “Why didn’t Americans care enough to vote?”

Her calm voice interjected quietly: “You must have patience with democracy. It isn’t perfect and doesn’t always do the right thing. But eventually we will remember what we believe in.”

Linda and I are thinking a lot about that as we turn to the League’s next activities. We will begin a local politics program for new citizens with the International Institute (we had postponed this for 1 year). We have very important local elections, including what is shaping up to be a hard fought race for St. Louis Mayor. We are coming to grips with what comes next after the Voter Photo ID amendment passed, in terms of legal action and helping those affected to obtain the required identification.

The League has seen many ups and downs in its almost 100 years, and it keeps serving our community and persevering. While we continue that work, let’s treasure our time together as a very special group. Support the Theatre Party on December 17th. Commit to regularly attending unit meetings. Do good work with new citizens, register voters, work on the Guide and continue our advocacy work with our newly developed partners. There are people of good will around to help our democracy find its bearing. No better place than the League for that.

Kathleen Farrell & Linda C. McDaniel, Co-Presidents

League members from Missouri join in discussions on issues and events for 2017



Left to right: Emogene Fox, Peggy Placier, Kathleen Farrell, Linda McDaniel, Meredith Donaldson

2015-2016 LWVMetroSTL BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Gwen Moore

Sydell Shayer

Louise Wilkerson

ILR Editor Nancy Miller



Left to right: Becky Clausen, Mary Merritt, Donna Hoch, Maggie Castrey, Lorraine Sandstrom

LWVMetroSTL Calendar

- Dec. 3 Holiday Event (No Dec units) Saturday
- Dec. 17 Theatre Party
- Dec. 19 Winter Wonderland
- Dec. 26— Mon Jan. 2 **OFFICE CLOSED FOR WINTER HOLIDAYS**

2017

- Jan 9 Units: Planning for State Program/Behavioral Health
- Jan 16 Marti Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED
- Jan 17 Begin Voter Guides for Spring Election
- Jan. 25 Board Meeti g
- Jan 27 Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt

- Feb 11-16 Units: Unit Choice (City unit on the 11th)
- Feb 14 LWV Birthday
- Feb 20 Presidents’ Day OFFICE CLOSED
- Feb 25 Trivia Night
- Feb. 22 Board Meeti g

- March There are a number of events in March that the League parti ipates in as it is women’s history month, event in Je City, etc.
- March 7 Electio s: St. Louis City Primary
- March 11-17 Units: Hot Topics
- March 22 Board Meeti g

League of Women Voter 52nd Na onal Conven on
2016 BYLAW AMENDMENTS
 June 2016
 Proposed by LWV of Minnesota—PASSED by Delegates

Article III
 Membership
 Sec. 2 Types of membership
Voting Members. [Citizens] PERSONS at least [18] 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS...

PROPOSAL #3 [Citizens] to Persons **PASSED**

PROPOSAL #4 [18] TO 16 **PASSED**



JANUARY UNITS TOPIC: HEALTH CARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Health Care Committee will be sharing information on Mental Health with the January unit meetings. Begin thinking about what matters most to you. We want to address questions and concerns of greatest interest. Send any query or insight to me via email: dmodrell@sbcglobal.net (Please use LWV in the subject line.)

Stigma remains as one challenge facing those with mental health issues. Let's help break that barrier. Insurance companies may not have a network of accessible therapists. This is especially true for those who treat teens and younger children. From bullying anxiety to suicidal thoughts, intervention is imperative for wellness, and early treatment has proven most successful. *Kaiser Health News* reports on the need for provider skills to help with these conditions beyond general pediatrics or at the emergency room level.

THE STATE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN AMERICA 2017 has been published by Mental Health America (MHA). Among the many findings, the issue of workforce availability is addressed. Variables include where one might live and the type of care needed. They have looked at both adult and youth access to care.

The report states these findings:

- ◆ 1 in 5 adults has a mental health condition,
- ◆ Youth depression increased from 8.5% in 2011 to 11.1% in 2014,
- ◆ 56% of American adults with mental illness did not receive treatment,
- ◆ In many states the ratio of mental health professional to individuals was 1 to 1,000
- ◆ States with less access to care had higher rates of incarceration.

While admitting some strengths and limitations to the surveys used (MHA) to compare state data, we will highlight some of the Missouri statistics and comparisons. With all 15 ranking measures used, Missouri ranked overall at 31st, just below average among the states. This ranking increased from 2011 when we were at 37th. The Missouri prevalence of adult mental illness (not including substance abuse or developmental disorder) ranked near half-way among states, with a population percentage of 18.95 representing 96,000 people.

Individuals may not recognize the need for mental health assistance. Increased screening tools would be of benefit for primary care physicians. Access to treatment has gradually increased, yet 56.5% of those who could benefit across the country did not receive any treatment. That may relate to individual reasons, but larger issues may affect getting help when needed.

Missouri ranks lowest (51st, with D.C. included) in unmet needs for adults with all mental illnesses. Some systemic barriers to access are suggested by MHA:

- ◆ Lack of insurance or inadequate insurance
- ◆ Lack of available treatment providers
- ◆ Lack of available treatment types (inpatient treatment, individual therapy, intensive community services)
- ◆ Insufficient finances to cover costs – including copays, uncovered treatment types, or when providers do not take insurance. Missourians with unmet treatment needs represent 25.9% of our population or 218,000 people. Closing the coverage gap for Medicaid might eliminate individual financial barriers. This statewide view can guide our focus for particular study and presentations.

Dianne Modrell, Health Care Committee Chair

This Behavioral Health Care Concurrence was passed at the National LWV Convention in June, 2016
Public Policy Position Behavioral Health

Every U.S. resident should have access to a affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Missouri's electricity production has historically relied heavily on coal-fired power plants. These existing power plants release significant, unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the air, causing significant health and environmental problems.

In recent years, Missouri has developed policies to encourage more investments in clean and renewable energy sources and energy efficiency here at home. These additional investments in clean energy and energy efficiency have already produced significant economic benefit for the state—creating quality jobs and ensuring reliable, affordable electricity.

Missouri had 68,534 green jobs as of 2011, and by the end of 2014, the Missouri solar industry will have created over 3,700 jobs and added \$415 million to the state's economy. In early 2014, Clean Line Energy Partners announced plans for a high-voltage line to transfer 3,500 megawatts of wind power from Kansas to states to the east, crossing Missouri and creating approximately 2,800 jobs right here in Missouri. **Public Hearing will be held in December for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line.**

Missouri's large tracts of windy land and fertile soil, located relatively close to dense, energy-consuming urban centers, put the state in a prime position to become a national leader in renewable energy. Studies show that a local renewable energy industry in Missouri would create tens of thousands of jobs and provide substantial new sources of income for farmers.

By developing solar and wind power, making biomass energy from agricultural waste, and growing dedicated energy crops to make advanced biofuels, Missouri can keep its energy dollars at home and even start exporting energy to other states.

Unhealthy air leads to more childhood asthma attacks, and increases complications for those with lung disease and other chronic health conditions. Cutting carbon emissions and transitioning to clean energy could reduce the related 8,000 annual Missouri hospital admissions, which is why many health groups, like the American Lung Association support such an effort. Plus, nearly seven in ten Missourians believe increasing clean energy use and energy efficiency would give Missouri healthier air—reducing asthma and lung disease, and ultimately saving lives.

Missouri is in the process of developing a comprehensive state energy plan that would potentially reduce carbon pollution and expand clean energy and energy efficiency investments. This summer, the EPA released a Clean Power Plan with standards for reducing carbon pollution—in Missouri that means a 21 percent reduction by 2030 compared with 2005 levels. Missouri is already on the right track to achieve that goal. It now has the opportunity to leverage its existing statewide clean energy and energy efficiency policies and expand them to ensure a strong economy, a healthy environment and a secure energy future.

from the Missouri Clean Energy Coalition
Mickey Croyle, Environmental Quality Chair
mcroyle@wustl.edu

For additional information on Transmission lines, please see the article in the June/July In League Reporter. Write a letter to Missouri Public Service Commission supporting the Grain Belt Express. (Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street Jefferson City, MO 65101)



Join us for the League of Women Voters Annual Theatre Party

BUYER & CELLAR by Jonathan Tolins

“A comedic tour-de-force, fictionally drawn from fact, which explores the price of fame, the cost of things, and the oddest of odd jobs. Underemployed Los Angeles actor Alex More is hired to work in a faux shopping mall created by Barbra Streisand in her basement. “



Presented by : The Stray Dog Theater

At the Tower Grove Abbey
2336 Tennessee Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63104

<http://www.towergroveabbey.org/>

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th, Matinee

1:00 *Hors d'oeuvres*

2:00 *Performance*

The Theatre Party is the major fund raising event of the Metro St. Louis League. We encourage all members and friends of the League to support this entertaining and fun event.

RSVP by December 9th

Sponsorship Levels:

Platinum: \$1000.00 (10 tickets)

Gold: \$500.00 (6 tickets)

Silver: \$300.00 (4 tickets)

Bronze: \$150.00 (2 tickets)

Single Ticket: \$60.00

****All Contributions are tax-deductible, minus \$30 per ticket.**

Yes, I will be a sponsor of the Theatre Party on December 17th

Name _____ Sponsorship level: _____ # of tickets needed: _____

Address to send receipt to: _____

SEND CHECK AND REGISTRATION TO: LWVMetroSTL 8706 Manchester Rd Ste 104, 63144

FOR INFORMATION CALL THE LEAGUE OFFICE: 314. 961.6869

Or pay online at www.lwvstl.org

UNITS WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER

COMMITTEES WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON JANUARY 14th, 10am at League Office

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

HEALTH COMMITTEE WILL BE PRESENTING TO UNITS IN JANUARY. QUESTIONS?

CALL CHAIRMAN DIANNE MODRELL

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN JANUARY

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Ulysses S Grant Historic Site Presents:
***“Hammering Out Human Rights” Eleanor Roosevelt
at the United Nations***

Friday, January 27 7:00pm

Saturday January 28 10:00am & 1:00pm

This first person presentation by Susan Marie Frontczak presents the compassion, humor, angst and wit of Eleanor Roosevelt. She speaks of the groundbreaking, grueling, tempestuous, and eventually triumphant development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling 314-842-1867 ext. 230
The presentation is free

Pipeline to Local Office: January 25 & 26, 2017

This program is targeted to those gearing up for spring school board and municipal election contests. Whether you are running for office, helping another candidate or simply wanting to learn more about campaigns, Pipeline to Local Office is the program for you!

The program will be taught over two evenings in January, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Participants can expect to gain "how-to" instructions on running for office, fundraising and media skills, real-world advice and best practices from women who've run before, and more effective leadership skills. Register before January 9, 2017 to lock in your space at the discounted rate. Final registration deadline is Wednesday, January 18, 2017. For more information, visit www.umsl.edu/sueshear or Call [314-516-4727](tel:314-516-4727).

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

It is a political year with many social justice and economic issues in the forefront. Environmental impacts locally, regionally, and nationally have been less in the limelight. This year the Environmental Quality Committee will highlight some of the environment concerns, we will work to keep our members abreast of legislative actions, and will issue call to action. We welcome new members! Feel free to contact Mickey Croyle at mcroyle@wustl.edu.



In Memory of...

Remembering Mary Kirkpatrick

September 19, 2016

It was in 1996, when a new resident of Chesterfield finally found out where she could attend a League meeting. She was having difficulty connecting with the League office but was pleased to see a unit meeting announced in the newspaper. Her name was Mary Kirkpatrick. She and I talked long after the meeting ended. It was the beginning of a long and sustained friendship that only ended after she died a few weeks ago at age ninety-one.

For those of you who were around and active in the League in the 60's, most active League members treated their volunteer membership activities in the League as a full time job or more. It did not end at 5 pm. Those were the days when women did not necessarily have a position in the workforce. Although we did not get paid a salary our compensation was great. We became expert in League program issues such as international trade, the environment, campaign finance, social policy and much more. We served the public with voters guides, candidate forums, and educational programs just as we do today.

Of all the benefits we received, perhaps the most valuable were the friendships we made. Today, all the members who served on the same committees as I remain close friends even though our lives might have taken different paths.

Mary had been in the League in Massachusetts, Oklahoma, New York and then came Missouri. But that was not her last League stop. She became president of the Bennington, VT League when she and her husband retired there.

There were several local Leagues in the St. Louis area back in the 60's. Mary became president of the Central County League encompassing, Clayton, Ladue, Olivette, Cave Coeur and points west. Many years later she was asked to serve as president again and willingly did. Mary served on the Missouri state board. In that capacity she became Voter Service chair. Believe it or not, the League had an arrangement with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to publish the League Voter Guide in the 70's and 80's. Mary chaired that endeavor and almost saw that publication through single-handedly.

I could go on relating all the positions she held and all the publications and studies she participated in. But all active League members know what that entails.

It is sad to think that so many of our contemporaries passed on. Unfortunately we do not live forever. That is why I realize that most of our present members will not have had the fortune to have met Mary. But the League is what it is today because of Mary Kirkpatrick and others like her.

Sydell Shayer



Before we know it, 2017 will be here and we will be into Unit and Committee meetings, Voters Guides, Voter Registrations and more Speakers Bureau Presentations. If you have not yet done so, this is an excellent time to catch-up with your dues for 2016-2017. Support the League and the fine work that we do!



VOLUNTEER CORNER

This is the end of the year wrap-up. THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE MANY HOURS TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE. And now, on to 2017. The work is always here - if you have some time to donate to the League we could certainly use the help. Please contact Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator. Her email address is volunteer@LWVstl.org



Our volunteers since our last newsletter include: Liz Aurbach, Rick Aurbach, Nancy Billingham, Brooke Bribresco, Stefany Brot, Lori Calcaterra, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney, Mickey Croyle, Angie Dunlap, Terry Dunlap, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Eve Golden, Barbara Harris, Debby Howard, Nancy Hutchins, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Kay Meyer, Anna Mennerick, Tom Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Dianne Mordrell, Gwen Moore, Jane Nettesheim, Angela Newson, Barbara Nielsen, Marty O, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Anne Sappington, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, Catherine Stenger, Carol Strawbridge, Billie Teneau, K Wentzien, Ida West, Louise Wilkerson, Sue Williams, and Liz Wolko. This list includes the St. Louis board members. If you are a member of a League committee we would like to keep track of the time you spend on League activities. Please let the office know so we can add your name to our volunteer list. We appreciate your commitment to the League. If we neglected to list your name please let us know and we will thank you in the next newsletter.

Julie Behrens, Staff

From the Executive Director's Desk

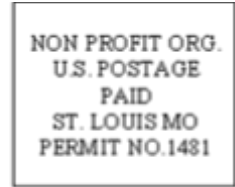


What a year we have had together. As I reflect on all the voter service we have provided to the region, I am thankful to be working with each of you. Time to gather our strength for a new year of adventures and accomplishments in 2017.

Anna Mennerick



IN LEAGUE REPORTER



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 MANCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 104
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63144

DECEMBER 2016

Sat. Dec. 3	11:30-2:00pm	Holiday Luncheon	Keagan's in Forest Park
Sat. Dec. 17	1:00-3:30pm	THEATRE PARTY	Stray Dog Theatre
Mon. Dec. 19	4:45-10:00pm	Winter Wonderland	Tilles Park, Clayton
<i>First show begins 4:45 Open to Public 5:30 Come & Enjoy!</i>			

JANUARY 2017

Sat.-Thurs. Jan 7-12		UNITS: State Planning	Various - see Jan. ILR
Sat. Jan. 14	10-11am	Education Committee	League Office
Mon. Jan 16		MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	OFFICE CLOSED
Wed. Jan 25	6-8pm	LWVMetroSTL Board Mtg	League Office

FEBRUARY 2017

Sat.-Thurs. Feb 11-16		Units Meeting	Various - see Feb. ILR
Tues. Feb. 14		LWV Birthday	
Mon. Feb. 20		PRESIDENTS' DAY	OFFICE CLOSED
Wed. Feb 22	6-8pm	LWVMetroSTL Board Mtg	League Office
Sat. Feb 25	6:30-10pm	TRIVIA NIGHT	First Congregation I Church of Webster Groves