

MissouriVOTER

Volume 67 Issue 6

League of Women Voters

November/December 2006

President's Letter

League members have a broad range of interests making it difficult to establish legislative priorities. Health, children, taxes, environment, election processes, civil liberties, education, social policy, natural resources, equal rights - all these and more are issues of vital importance not only to League members but to all residents of Missouri. However due to limited resources, we have to narrow our focus and concentrate on a few issues during the next legislative session. The board discussed the issues, heard from the members at Fall Conference, and selected the following priorities: access to quality health care at an affordable cost for all Missouri residents; an electoral process that is fair, accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable and uniform; equal access to good public education for all Missouri's children; a broad based, consumer friendly, renewable energy policy; fairness in Missouri's taxes.

The League is known and respected in Jefferson City and we want to keep it that way. To do this we need your help. The legislators have been elected - now it is time to let them know what we want them to do. Write letters, make phone calls, visit their local office - let them know your stand on the issues they will be voting on.

We need you to be responsive to the Action Alerts that will be coming from both state and national - these are important - please act on them, and then let us know who you contacted and their response (we are working on a procedure for you to add your comments to the alert form and simply return it to us by email). Now, you may be asking "what if I don't agree with League position on this issue?" You still need to let your legislator know your stand - just be very clear that you are speaking as "Jane Doe, a private citizen."

For anyone interested in lobbying in Jefferson City, let us know, and we will assign you a mentor - a person experienced in League lobbying to go with you and help you learn. Try it - you might like it.

Mary

2006 Fall Workshop



Linda McDaniel fields questions from the members.

This year for the annual fall workshop in Sedalia, the participants learned all about wearing their League "hat," how to lobby effectively, and how League positions are reached.

President Mary Merritt reminded members that the League speaks with "one voice" on issues we have studied, but that when we are speaking for ourselves we should remove our LWV hat.

Those who attended also heard from Beth Griffin, the executive director for Citizens for Missouri's Children and a former LWVMO lobbyist. She shared CMC's priorities for 2007, and she also told about the way groups like CMC and LWV should be proactive in the legislature and not reactive after an issue has come to the surface.

Linda McDaniel of St. Louis has served on the LWVUS board, and she brought a wealth of information on how to understand the programs and positions of League. Is it possible to maintain League's non-partisanship? How should a conflict of interest be handled? Can members also hold a position on a local board or commission? Who is asked to testify before the legislature? And last but not least, what are we supposed to do with those Action Alerts we get during the legislative session? All of those questions and more were discussed and answered during the day-long event.

Continued on Page 2

First Call to 2007 Convention

LWVMO State Convention will be held May 5 and 6, 2007 at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark.

All Leaguers are welcome to attend; local Leagues need to select their delegates.

Dates to Remember

Jan.	6	LWVMO Board Meeting Columbia
	9	New Legislator's breakfast Jefferson City
	15	Consensus due on Library Study
Feb	1	Board and Officer nominations due
	15	Consensus due on Charter School Study
	24	State Program Planning Reports due
Mar	10	LWVMO Board Meeting St. Louis
	29	Legislative Day, Jefferson City
April	1	Harriett Woods and Lenore Loeb Award nominations due
May	4	LWVMO Board
	5-6	State Convention Lake Ozark

News from the Office Staff

The office was busy this election season with Voters Guides and election information. The League distributed over 20,000 Missouri Voters Guides and palm cards with the "5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day" to local leagues for distribution and to over 200 municipal libraries across the state, in areas not covered by a local league's own Voters Guide. Many of the local leagues also prepared their local information in combination with the statewide candidates and ballot issues.

The Missouri Voters Guide was posted on the League website at www.lwvmissouri.org and our average monthly visits jumped from approximately 700 September and earlier to 2105 in October and 2375 in November. If you haven't been to the website, please take a look at all the information available. Suggestions for additions to the website may be emailed to the office at lwvmo@yahoo.com.

The website was also used by many of our members to access the Library Study information provided by Jo Sapp and her committee. Congratulations to the Cape Girardeau League, most of whom made use of this information on the website for the study.

Remember, the LWVMO office is here to help our members across the state. If you have questions or need to know who to contact for help, you may call the office Monday-Friday, 9:30-3:30.

Have you ordered your 2007 Calendars?

League Legislative Lobby Day Thursday, March 29, 2007 HHR2 Capitol

The Fun Added Day begins early at 8:30 am. After we Breakfast with the Legislators, Listen to their updates on bills and get Briefed, we'll Lobby and sit in on sessions. For lunch, we Brown Bag (the House cafeteria is open too). THEN we'll TOUR the Governor's Mansion and possibly the New DNR building.

It's a Full Day. Make it one you take in.
Laura Worstell.

Continued from Page 1

It was also interesting to hear the ideas on what will be the new, "hot button" issues during the 2007 session. Having an idea what will come up for discussion helps LWVMO set its priorities for our lobbying efforts. One thing we must be frequently reminded of is that with the number of members we have, we can't focus on every issue of interest, but we must narrow our list to the issues we can manage and speak to effectively.

**Lenore Loeb
Sterling Achievement Award**

1. The Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award is based on the League of Women Voters principles or positions at the national, state or local levels.
2. The activity to be nominated must be initiated and completed at the local level.
3. In order to be eligible for the bi-annual award, the activity must have been completed within two years of being nominated for the award.
4. The award will be given at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention.
5. The winner will be determined by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Missouri or a committee named by the President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri and approved by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Missouri.
6. The award may be for either an action project or an education project.
7. The award may be given to an individual member of the League of Women Voters or to a League of Women Voters.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT
1989	LWV Cape Girardeau
1991	LWV Taney County
1993	LWV Springfield-Greene County
1995	Glenda Quinn, LWV Southeast MO
1997	Debora Biggs, LWV Springfield-Greene County
1999	LWV Mexico-Audrain County
2001	LWV Columbia-Boone County
2003	LWV Springfield-Greene County
2005	Win Colwill, LWV Columbia-Boone County

**Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award
2007 Nomination Form**

Name of Nominee (League or Individual): _____

If nominee is an individual:

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local League: _____

Name and Address of person submitting nomination: _____

On a separate sheet of paper:

1. Give the league principle or position on which the project was based.
2. Give the time frame for the project. For the 2007 award, the project had to take place from May 2005 (the last LWVMO Convention) and be completed by April 2007.
3. Describe the project and the number of people involved in the project.
4. State the outcome of the project and its effects on the community.
5. Identify which resources were used.
6. Attach: samples of publications, brochures, video tapes, etc.; news clippings and information about other publicity.

Nominations must be received by close of Business April 1, 2007.

Mail to: Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award
League of Women Voters of Missouri
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144-2724

**The Harriett Woods Award
for
Exemplary Community Service**

1. The Harriett Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service, hereafter known as the Award, will be presented bi-annually at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention.
2. The recipient of the award will be an individual.
3. The recipient of the award will be a member of the League of Women Voters of Missouri at the time the Award was earned and received.
4. Anyone may submit a nomination.
5. Nominations must be in writing and submitted as announced on the nomination form.
6. The final decision of the recipient will be made by a committee appointed by the President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri.
7. The service or activity does not have to be a League of Women Voter's project, but must be compatible with League of Women Voters' mission and not in conflict with League of Women Voters' program positions.
8. The Criteria for the award will include, but will not be limited to:
 - a. An individual who goes beyond the normal scope of service;
 - b. A service or activity that affects a large number of individuals;
 - c. A service or activity that enhances a community (not necessarily a city).

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT
1995	Harriett Woods, LWV St. Louis
1997	Linda Ahmann, LWV Mexico-Audrian County
1999	Liz Schmidt, LWV Columbia-Boone County
2003	Dora Gianoulakis, LWV St. Louis
2005	Laura Worstell, LWV Mexico-Audrain County

**Nomination Form for the 2007
Harriett Woods Award
for
Exemplary Community Service**

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee's League: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Nominee's Phone: _____ Email _____

Name and address of individual submitting the nomination: _____

On a separate sheet of paper:

1. Describe the nominee's project/service/activity (hereafter referred to as Project).
2. State why this Project was needed.
3. State who benefited and approximately how many people benefited.
4. State, if any, the Project's long range effects on the community.

Please attach documentation, photographs, copies of awards, copies of commendations, etc.

Nominations must be received by close of business April 1, 2007.

Mail to: Harriett Woods Award Nomination
League of Women Voters of Missouri
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144-2724

A message from your state nominating committee...

Every two years delegates to LWVMO State Convention elect a new State Board. If you or another member of your League has decided 2007-09 would be the time for you to serve, please complete this nomination form and return it to our committee for consideration. Thank you.

Elaine Blodgett, Nancy Copenhaver, Betty Ann Gilbert, Lucy Hale, and Margie Richcreek, Ch.

Form for Missouri State Board Nominations

Please use this form to nominate yourself or someone else to serve on the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Board. These forms will be used by the State Nominating Committee.

Part A (General Information)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

(E-mail) _____

Local League Membership: _____

Office or Board Portfolio: _____

Part B (Optional Information)

The following area is for you to describe your reasons for nominating, qualifications of, interesting biographical information about the above named person.

New Legislators' Breakfast

When: Tuesday, January 9 - 8:30-10:00am

Where: House Hearing Room 2- Capitol

Who's invited: 28 new state representatives,
5 new state senators, and all
League members

Who's hosting- LWVMO Advocacy
Committee

What's Happening: Coffee/Goodies - Meeting
Greeting and welcoming newly elected
legislators.

Who should take advantage of this opportunity:
all "Leaguers" are urged to come and
discuss prefiled bills and priority items
with the legislators. (You'll get a
briefing in mid December so you can be
prepared.)

This is a real plus for League. Do plan to take
part. You'll enjoy it.

Laura Worstell

League of Women Voters of Missouri (St. Louis)

Subscriptions are \$2 per year.

Kathleen Boswell, Editor

Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO 63144

USPS 593-960

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Missouri Voter, LWVMO

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

All other correspondence to Mary Merritt at the same address.

Voice: 314-961-6869 FAX: 314-961-8393

Email: lwvmo@yahoo.com

The LWVMO has made arrangements with Travel Concepts International to encourage groups to book travel through their company. For each League member and their guests that book travel plans with Travel Concepts, the company will pay \$50, which will be split between LWVMO and the local League. You can call them at 1-800-762-4216, or navigate their website at www.tcitravel.com. Plans can be made on the website by destination or travel dates.

