



Missouri Voter

Volume 68, Issue 5

The League of Women Voters

September/October 2007

LWVMO Celebrates 88 Years of Advocacy and Education!

by Jo Sapp, LWVMO President

The League of Women Voters was conceived at the National American Woman Suffrage Association's 50th Anniversary Jubilee Convention in St. Louis in March of 1919. After Carrie Chapman Catt's (pictured right) rousing speech at that meeting, the group voted to dissolve and reorganize "as a group dedicated to educating the electorate and ensuring the honesty and merit of public officials. They called their new group the League of Women Voters." [See Florence Shinkle's article at <http://www.stltoday.com/>]. Before the national League could officially organize, however, the Missouri League was formed on October 19, 1919, thus predating the national organization by almost four months.



LWVMO turns 88 on October 19, and we're still going strong. We've adapted to change, but our essential mission remains the same. We continue to educate voters and legislators and our own members. We continue to advocate for good government and social reform. We continue to fulfill the vision of our wise foremothers. Happy Birthday, LWVMO. You're looking mighty lively for an octogenarian.

On November 3, the League's tradition of education and advocacy will continue at the fall conference. League members from around the state will convene at State Fair Community College to enjoy the hospitality of the Sedalia League and explore some of the driving issues of 2007. In addition to meeting new friends who share our interests and catching up with those who have fought alongside us in many battles, the day's program will include presentations on global warming and immigration, both issues that touch us at every level.

This year's meeting will also include a very special meeting convened to ask the members to reaffirm our position on judicial appointments. All Missouri presidents have received a packet of information that will help you prepare for this critical meeting, and I hope you can attend. It promises to be an interesting and engaging day. See you in Sedalia.

(The registration form for Fall Conference is on page 7.)

Immigration Consensus

by Judith Smart, LWVMO off board

Immigration consensus for all Leagues is coming soon. The issue is complicated, and the volume of information available for study is enormous. However, we do hope to reach consensus in January 2008 in order for all Leagues to be able to act/react on immigration questions. Bills have been proposed at all levels of government, but we have had to remain silent because we have no position. Because the issue is in the news almost daily, we must make an informed decision and be ready to participate in legislation.

An extremely good way to educate yourself prior to the consensus meetings in your area is to go to the LWVUS web site; this contains a wealth of information. One of the most recent postings has been the list of consensus questions with background information and further elaboration. This site is easy to find and requires no password.

To become informed on the consensus:

1. Go to www.lwv.org.
2. Click on the "For Members" section near the middle of the opening page.
3. Go to LWVUS Immigration Study under "Quick Links" and click.
4. Click on the part of the study which interests you.
5. If you want just the consensus questions with background information and discussion questions, click on "Immigration Study Consensus Kit." Go down to the last item under Consensus Kit Resources which is "Background Information..." and click there.

Happy hunting and happy clicking!

The Non-Partisan Court Plan

by Nancy Copenhaver, LWVMO 1st VP and Legislative Chair

The Nonpartisan Court Plan provides for the selection of judges based on merit, not on political affiliation. Currently the Nonpartisan Court Plan is in use for the Missouri Supreme Court, Missouri Court of Appeals, and Circuit Courts in St. Louis City, St. Louis, Clay, Jackson and Platte Counties. Other counties by local vote can participate in the Plan.

The procedure is for a commission to be established for each jurisdiction/level of judges (except the same commission covers the Missouri Supreme Court and the Missouri Court of Appeals). The five-member commission is composed of lawyers and citizens and the "head" judge of the jurisdiction being covered. The commission submits three names to the governor who selects one individual to be judge. If the governor does not select an individual from the three names submitted, the commission selects the judge.

The plan, referred to as the Missouri Plan across the country, is used as a model by other states that want to reform their judiciary. League has long-supported this plan and even the

extension of it to other counties as an improved system of selection, tenure, and retirement of judges.

Current political attacks on the Plan have brought the issue to the forefront and legislative activity is expected in the up-coming session. It is, therefore, important for League members to familiarize themselves with the issue, League positions, and be ready to help defend the Plan. Information at the Fall Conference should arm local Leaguers for this battle and reaffirm a long-standing position.

Climate Change / Global Warming

by Win Colwill and Donna Bergen, LWVMO Energy Co-Chairs

Mark your calendar for our program on Climate Change/Global Warming in the afternoon session of Fall Conference. With the argument about whether there is a real threat to our environment from greenhouse gases, primarily resulting from human activity, we all recognize this is one of the most important issues facing us locally and world wide. We need to learn more about this subject so we can address it properly.

Our speaker, Dr. Wendy Anderson of Drury University in Springfield, has prepared a Power Point presentation and discussion on climate change and global warming. Dr. Anderson is associate professor of biology and environmental science, director of campus sustainability and chairs the President's Council on Sustainability. Dr. Anderson is looking forward to learning more about the League's environmental concerns, and she will welcome comments and questions during her presentation. Come prepared to learn, question, and discuss.

Local Leagues

Moberly/Randolph County LWV



On August 11, the LWVMO board met at the Moberly Area Community College, and members of the Moberly/RC League were invited to attend. We were fortunate to have President **Janie Riley** (on left with LWVMO board member Elaine Blodgett) speak to us about their League. Here she summarizes her talk with the board:

The 2007-2008 year started well for the Moberly/Randolph County LWV. We held a membership gathering in September, informing possible new members about the League and our League activities. Our membership increased by five!

We also would like to do a little bragging about some of our League members. **Joan Casleton**, a member of the Moberly Area Community College Board of Directors for several years, is now president of the M.A.C.C. board. **Susan Carter** was elected one of the Randolph County Commissioners.

In the early 1970s, our League instituted an Observer Corps. We observe many of the standing committees in our city, such as City Council, Planning & Zoning, Health Department, Parks and Recreation, Ambulance District, Library, etc. Several of our members have become members of the committees they were observing. **Nancy Copenhaver** (state board member) was an observer for Planning & Zoning, was eventually appointed to P&Z, from there ran for City Council (serving for many years), then ran and served as our representative in Jefferson City. **Connie Asbury** observed P&Z for several years, was appointed to the P&Z committee, and this year was elected chair of P&Z. Connie is the first woman in the history of Moberly to be elected chair of any standing committee. Another glass ceiling has been broken!

We are 19 members strong. We make a difference in our League and in our community.

St. Louis LWV

LWV St. Louis celebrated Constitution Day with students from Kirkwood who presented a vivid portrait of the framers on the final day of the Constitutional Convention, 220 years ago. Wearing wigs and frock coats, and sitting at baize-covered tables, the actors – most of them eighth-graders from Nipher Middle School – argued and debated some of the most divisive issues of the Constitutional Convention: representation in Congress, the demands of slave-holding states, the people's rights. The presentation, co-sponsored by the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, with support from the LWVUS, was designed to help 5th to 8th grade public and home-schooled students understand the era and the issues underlying the U.S. Constitution. The event was covered by KSDK (NBC) Channel 5 on two newscasts that day.

Mexico/Audrain County LWV (reported by **Laura Worstell**, Immigration Chair)

LWV Mexico/Audrain County convened a panel of city and county officials and other community leaders to inform our members and guests on the impact of immigration on Mexico and the Audrain County area.

The panel included the Director of Public Safety, Mexico Public School's ELL (English Language Learners) Instructor, City-County Health Services Administrator, First Church of the Nazarene Minister whose church sponsors a Latino ministry and offers English and Spanish classes weekly, and an advisor to the local ACCIS organization. They presented an overview of their work, how immigration affects it, if it does, and then answered questions from the audience.

Columbia/Boone County LWV (reported by **Elaine Blodgett**, Columbia/BC president and LWVMO board member)

The Columbia/BC League is working with the University's Office of Service-Learning. This program integrates volunteer, community service into university coursework. It connects students with the community while providing opportunities for intensive and effective service to those in need. Through service to others, students learn valuable lessons in citizenship and are able to apply their classroom knowledge to real life situations and opportunities. For more information, check <http://muserves.missouri.edu>

[Notes & Reminders](#)

Membership. LWVMO submitted an application for a grant to LWVUS for Year Two of the Membership Recruitment Initiative. **Maydell Senn**, LWVMO membership committee, reports that we are not one of the five Leagues chosen. The State Leagues selected are California, Delaware, Indiana, Michigan, and North Carolina. LWVUS wrote that they had an “overwhelming response from 17 state leagues interested in participating in year two.” LWVUS has developed, tested and refined an innovative approach to attracting new members to LWV and will continue to develop this plan to assist local Leagues in recruiting new members.

Storybank. As part of the LWV Membership Recruitment Initiative, LWVUS established a Storybank to collect and house the wonderful stories of achievement from League members across the country. These personal stories convey an intimate portrait of the League to those thinking about joining the organization. For more information or to submit your story, go to www.lwv.org Open “For Members” and click on Membership Recruitment Initiative.

2008 Calendars. The 2008 LWV Appointment Calendars are selling well. At the August LWVMO board meeting, it was reported that sales had already covered expenses. All income now is PROFIT and that goes to the LWVMO general fund to help continue our important work. To order your calendars go to www.lwvmissouri.org or call the League office 314-961-6869. Let’s see how high our profit can climb. Buy a calendar! Sell a calendar! Do it today!

Environmental News & Commentary with a “Punny” Bone. Check out the Grist website at www.grist.org Lots of information about climate change, melting permafrost in Siberia, living green (including “green” fashions), eco toys, and much more.

Ask Linda. Questions about the League’s (national, state, local) rules and bylaws or the Ed Fund? *Ask Linda.* Email lwvmo@yahoo.com or call the office 314-961-6869.

Travel. Raise Funds and Have Fun Traveling. 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 who 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.tcittravel.com. Plans can be made on the website by destination or travel dates.

The Missouri VOTER is published bi-monthly at the
League of Women Voters of Missouri (St. Louis)

Subscriptions are \$2 per year.

Charlotte King, Editor

Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO 63144 USPS 593-960

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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LWVMO Calendar 2007 – 2008

2007

Oct 8 Columbus Day
 20 State League Birthday

Nov 2 Board Meeting – Sedalia
 3 Fall Conference and Special
 Membership Meeting – Sedalia
 6 Election Day
 11 Veterans’ Day
 20 Voter deadline to Editor
 22/23 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

Dec Legislative Planning
 5 Hanukkah
 24-25 Office Closed
 25 Christmas

2008

Jan 1 New Year’s Day - Office Closed
 5 Board Meeting – Columbia
 19 Board Meeting backup date
 20 Voter deadline to Editor
 21 Martin Luther King Holiday –
 Office closed

Feb 5 Presidential Primary
 6 Ash Wednesday
 14 LWV Birthday
 18 Presidents Day – Office Closed
 28 Candidate Filing

2008 (continued)

Mar *Women’s History Month*
 8 Board Meeting – St. Louis
 TBD Legislative Day – Jefferson City
 20 Voter deadline to Editor
 21/23 Good Friday/Easter

April 3 Passover

May 11 Mother’s Day
 16 Board Meeting – Springfield
 17 State Council - Springfield
 20 Voter deadline to Editor
 26 Memorial Day
 30/31 Back-up Board Meeting/Council

June 15 Father’s Day

July 4 Independence Day
 TBD Board Meeting
 20 Voter deadline to Editor

Aug 12 Primary Election

Sept TBD Voters Guides Available
 1 Labor Day
 20 Voter deadline to Editor

Oct TBD Board Meeting
 13 Columbus Day

Nov 4 Presidential Election Day
 11 Veterans Day
 20 Voter deadline to Editor
 27/28 Thanksgiving

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LWVMO FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
State Fair Community College, Yeater Building, 3201 West 16th Street, Sedalia
Cost: \$10 per person – Reservations due by Monday, October 29

Tentative Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:45 Registration, Refreshments
- 9:45 - 10:00 Welcome, Announcements
- 10:00 - 11:15 Immigration
- 11:15 - 12:30 Non Partisan Court Plan, Membership Meeting, Voting
- 12:30 - Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:45 Global Warming
- 2:45 Conference Wrap-up

Registration

LWV of _____

Persons Attending:

Delegates

Members

Payment enclosed: _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

Mail to: LWVMO Fall Conference, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
FAX: 314-961-8393 Email: lwvmo@yahoo.com

