

# MissouriVOTER

Volume 68 Issue 1

League of Women Voters

January / February 2007

## President's Letter

I know we are all busy with thoughts of what's going on in the legislature, plus the winter weather we've been having, but it is time to start making your plans to go to Convention 2007 -- Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5 at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark. Board members are busy making plans for a convention you don't want to miss. While the speakers have not yet been confirmed, I'm sure you will find them challenging and enjoyable. We are still open for workshop topics – if you have a suggestion for a subject you would like to have covered, let me know and we'll see if it can be arranged. We are presently looking at “Death Penalty” and “Population Control” among others.

The main reason for convention is to adopt our 2007-2009 program and identify issues that will guide our legislative agenda. Plus, we will adopt budget, and elect officers and board members for the 2007 – 2009 term. This is also the time when we give the Lenore Leob and Harriett Woods awards. Each local league will have official delegates who can vote during the plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday. We encourage and welcome **all** members to attend as observers.

In addition to taking care of the business of the League, convention is an opportunity to learn from each other and have some fun.

Registration for the convention will be \$90 (which includes 3 meals). Individuals are to make their own hotel reservations, and they **must be made by April 4** to get the LWVMO convention rate of \$95 (single or double) plus tax. To make your hotel reservation just call 888-265-5500 and be sure to tell them you are with the League of Women Voters of Missouri.

*Mary*

## Legislative Day

Mark **March 29<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar! It's the day you head to the capitol to greet, meet and eat with the legislators who are sponsoring (and opposing) the bills League feels are important to Missourians and are our priorities for the 2007 legislative session.

Our schedule for **Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**:  
**8:30-9:00** Coffee and Breakfast goodies (Columbia and Mexico Leagues and Mary's fudge) Greet your representatives. (Do call and invite him/her/ them for the breakfast)  
**9:00- 10:00** Updates on the status of bills we are supporting or proposing from the sponsors of these bills, where they are and their prospects of passage.

**10:00 to 11:00** Our legislative directors' briefing of how to proceed, who to see, and what we can do.

**11:00 to 12:00** Fan out and “work” the legislators and/or attend a hearing. **You can influence what is passed or defeated.**

**12:00 to 1:00** Take your legislator to lunch

**We have a treat starting at 1:30.**

**Leaguers will be able to tour the new state-of-the-art, energy efficient, Department of Natural Resources Office Building just east of the Capitol.** One of our priorities is urging use of renewable energy sources throughout the state. This will bring all of us up-to-date on what has been done and what can be done to make our city/state/world more energy efficient.

The form for registration for Legislative Day is located on page 3 of this issue. Please respond by Feb. 22, so we can get packets ready.

**Laura Worstell,  
Legislative Action Chair**

## Notes from National

At last weekend's meeting, the LWVUS Board voted to shorten the LWVUS Immigration Study from a three-year study to a two-year study. A more detailed net timeline will be posted on the website, but under the new timeline, LWVUS will distribute a Leader's Guide, including consensus questions, in August, 2007, and the consensus forms will be due back in the national office by Feb. 1, 2008. The decision to shorten the study process was made for a variety of reasons: members have expressed widespread support for a shorter study, Immigration Study Committee background materials are already available on the website, and many local Leagues are already holding educational meetings and forums on the subject.

We have a new Congress and a very different situation in Washington, D.C. following the 2006 elections. The board deliberated at length on priorities for advocacy. The board approved the following seven Advocacy Priorities:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Liberties
- DC Voting Rights
- Election Administration
- Ethics and Lobby Reform
- Global Climate Change
- Health Care Reform

Note that the first five are the democracy agenda, and the seven are not in priority order.

A listserv will be started on the website on the topic of the death penalty. This should provide interested members with a way to communicate about developments in this area.

The board spent considerable time on budget priorities.

### In Memory

The LWVMO Board was saddened to learn of the death of long-time board member Martha Vandivort of Cape Girardeau, in early December. Martha served as the board's chairman of the water portfolio and was passionate about preserving our clean water.

## Call for Action: Global Warming

On Nov. 20, 2006 the League of Women Voters of the United States joined 22 other national organizations in a statement urging immediate action to reduce global warming pollution.

*Citizens' Climate Policy: A Statement of Principles* warns "global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. The most recent scientific studies prove that global warming...is already causing environmental changes that will have significant economic and social impacts."

The statement emphasizes that if we act now and act decisively, existing technologies can halt the worst effects of global warming. Cities and states are already adopting solutions. What is needed now, it says, is "federal action that triggers solutions on a national scale":

1) Limits on global warming pollution and guaranteed reductions with enforceable deadlines. "Scientists say that we must begin to significantly reduce our emissions from today's levels in the next 10 years...60%-80% by 2050...to avert the worst consequences of global warming."

2) Promotion of energy efficiency solutions and renewable energy sources like wind, solar and cleanly-produced bio-fuels. "The cleanest, fastest and safest way to move away from dangerous sources of energy is to use energy more efficiently in our homes and vehicles."

3) "Immediate action is required... Our health and environment demand it." Read the complete statement on the LWVUS website:

[www.lwv.org/News&Events/LeagueofWomenVoters'letters](http://www.lwv.org/News&Events/LeagueofWomenVoters'letters).

In response to the LWVUS action, the LWVMO Board asks league members across the state to:

- 1) Urge your members of Congress to support legislation that includes the principles listed above;
- 2) Take action as individuals to conserve energy, e.g. install compact fluorescent bulbs;
- 3) Take action as Leagues to raise public awareness about the need for federal legislation to curb global warming; promote energy efficiency improvements in your community;
- 4) Ask your state legislators to support minimum renewable energy requirements for Missouri's electric utilities.

**New Legislator’s Breakfast**

League members from Columbia, Sedalia Moberly, and Mexico expected to meet and bring coffee and breakfast goodies and an opportunity to visit with the new members of Missouri Legislature, Jan. 9. We were disappointed in that a breakfast and tour of the prison had been scheduled for that same morning, consequently few new legislators made it to our meeting. Two returning house members did come by, and we discussed our 2007 priorities with them.

However, all was not lost. Elaine Blodgett, and Lael Von Holt met with Rep. Robb and Sen.Graham’s legislative assistant from their district. Win Colwill introduced herself to her new Representative, Paul Quinn. Mary Merritt visited with her new representative, Stanley Cox and Nancy Copenhaver talked to several House members.

The Mexico contingent was very pleased to catch the elevator with Representative Portwood, who invited us to his office. Rep. Portwood is the sponsor of HB39, a bill to restore medical payments to disabled workers. The League supported it last year, but it failed to get to conference on the last day of the session.. Rep. Portwood feels this bill has a very good chance of passage this time and, as he is the chairman of the committee, it will get early action and out on the House floor early for deliberation. We assured him of League’s continued support.

Laura Worstell, Legislative Action Chair

**Nominees needed**

Local Leagues are reminded that their nominees for the Harriet Woods Community Service Award and the Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award are due to the office by April 1, so that the awards can be presented at State Convention on May 5. Check the last issue of the *Voter* for the criteria and nomination forms for both.

**Goodsearch earns LWV funds**

When you plan to search the internet, use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and mark the LWVMO as the charity to earn funds each time you use it. Jo Sapp earned us \$1.29 in January and says if each member did it, the funds would really add up quickly.

**Dates to Remember**

- Feb. 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 at Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

Convention registration forms will be sent to Local League presidents by March 1 and will also be in the next *Missouri Voter*. Members planning in attending are encouraged to make their hotel reservations with the Lodge of the Four Seasons at (888) 265-5500 as soon as possible, because they must be made by April 4 to get the LWV convention price.

**Legislative Bulletins available**

Are you a subscriber to the *Legislative Bulletin*? It is easy; just send your email address to Micki in the office at [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com) and you will be signed up. For those who prefer hard copies, the cost is \$10 a year and it will be mailed every two weeks to your home.

**Legislative Day Registration Form**  
 Thursday, March 29, 2007  
 Enclosed is \$10 to cover the cost of the Information packet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local League \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

### Window Closing for Federal Tax Credits

Don't miss the opportunity to receive federal tax credits for residential energy conservation measures, solar energy systems, high efficiency air conditioners, etc. To qualify for the credit, installations must be completed between January 2006 and Dec. 31, 2007.

The tax credit for a solar energy system is 30% of cost up to \$2000. Energy conservation measures like insulation and energy efficient windows may receive tax credits up to a total of \$500. For more information see:

[www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub1344.pdf](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub1344.pdf)

### 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 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](http://www.tcitravel.com). Plans can be made on the website by destination or travel dates.

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