



Missouri Voter

Volume 69, Issue 2

The League of Women Voters

March/April 2008



Secretary of State Robin Carnahan talks with LWV members Lael Von Holt (Columbia), Mary Merritt (Sedalia), and Laura Worstell (Mexico) at the League table on Filing Day.

New this year: all persons filing for office are required to complete a *Candidate's Affidavit of Tax Payments* (Section 115.342, RSMo.) as part of the filing process.

Filing Day, A Successful Tradition

By Lael Von Holt, LWVMO Director

Filing Day in Jefferson City on February 26th was a wonderful opportunity for LWVMO to be present and involved in one of the basics of our democracy – citizens filing intent for elective office.

By 8 a.m. League members were at our table, strategically located in the lobby of the Secretary of State Building, ready to meet and greet an array of hopeful candidates for office. Our eye-catching blue tablecloth with the LWV logo was covered with our priority literature plus coffee and snacks to share with many energized candidates.

Thanks to Laura Worstell and Linda Ahmann of the Mexico LWV, Mary Merritt of the Sedalia LWV, and Carol Schreiber, Win Colwill, and Charlotte King of the Columbia LWV for making this event such a memorable one.

LWVMO Board Meets In St. Louis

By Charlotte King, Win Colwill, and Sydell Shayer

The LWVMO board met March 1st at the state office in St. Louis. In addition to the board members, those present included St. Louis members Doris Buzzell (president), Mickey Croyle, Janice Dahl, Micki Hoffman (LWVMO & LWVSTL office manager), and Sydell Shayer (LWVMO off board).

Mickey Croyle discussed Smart Voter, a project that uses the Internet to enable voters to quickly and easily access nonpartisan information that will be on their ballot. The St. Louis League plans to use Smart Voter to provide information to St. Louis and St. Louis County residents.

In addition to planning the upcoming Spring Council in Springfield on May 31, the board took the following actions:

- **Agreed** to support an initiative petition to put a Missouri Renewable Electricity Standard on the November ballot. The RES requires investor-owned electric utilities to generate part of their electricity from renewable energy sources; the amount required increases from 2% of retail electricity sales in 2011 to 15% in 2021. Utilities may develop their own renewable energy sources or purchase them from other producers. 26 states (and Columbia, MO) have RESs. Participation in petition circulation is voluntary. For more information, please contact Energy Co-Directors: Win Colwill at colwillw@gmail.com or Donna Bergen at dbergen3@sbcglobal.net.
- **Opposed** an initiative petition to amend the Missouri Constitution to ban state and local government affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment (with some exceptions) in public contracting, employment, or education based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. The League has supported affirmative action programs and policies throughout the United States and urges LWV members and members of the community to “decline to sign” this petition. The petitioners have until May 4, 2008, to collect signatures. If supporters succeed in getting this petition verified, the issue will be on the November 2008 ballot.
- **Signed** a resolution calling for a moratorium of the death penalty while a thorough study of all aspects of the death penalty takes place. It also asks for implementation of legislation, policies, and procedures that ensure that death-penalty cases are administered fairly and impartially in accordance with basic constitutional guarantees such as the right to due process of law, competent legal representation, and elimination of the risks that innocent persons may be executed. LWV members should feel free to convey this information, as individuals, to their elected officials.

Informative Legislative Day

By Nancy Copenhaver, LWVMO Legislative Director, and Charlotte King

A small, but enthusiastic, group of League members from Columbia, Mexico, Moberly, Sedalia, Springfield, and Kansas City gathered at the Capitol in Jefferson City on March 13th for our annual Legislative Day. Folders with agenda, maps, issue updates, League priority cards, and legislature picture directories were provided to help guide participants. The coffee was hot, and the snacks were plentiful. The speakers were passionate and knowledgeable. Here's a small part of what we learned:



Rep. Sara Lampe from Springfield spoke on education and children's issues. She hopes to restore funding for gifted education (her bill had passed in committee), discussed why the legislature should NOT approve a watered-down route to teacher certification (entitled ABCTE), and advocated that the legislature should protect public education and not allow vouchers, which divert public moneys to private schools.



Otto Fajen, lobbyist for Missouri NEA, helped frame the tax issues. He pointed out that support of public education depends on Missouri having the tax revenue to ensure that "every Missouri child has a right to attend a great public school" and expressed concern that the huge number of tax credits, current and proposed, affect the ability of Missouri to provide basic services – including education, social services, health care for the needy, and infrastructure.



Ron Berry, from the Secretary of State's staff, spoke about the Secretary's priority of providing sufficient paper ballots to ensure confidence in the elections. He also spoke on the issue of mandated voter ID and shared information about the large number of initiative petitions this year, the largest in anyone's memory. He cautioned those approached to sign a petition to be sure what they are signing, as much misleading information is often given.

It was an interesting and information-packed day. For more information about Legislative Day and legislative action, please refer to your Legislative Bulletin. If you are not receiving the bulletin, please contact the League office at lwvmo@yahoo.com or phone 314-961-6869.

[MissouriVoterIn Cyberspace](#)

15% of our members have elected to receive the *MissouriVoter* by email. This is exciting news because it means a savings to our environment (paper & ink), our natural resources (gasoline for the postal transport), and our money (printing costs & postage).

If you would like to receive the “Green Machine” newsletter, just email Micki at the League office (lwvmo@yahoo.com) and ask her to move you from snail mail to email. Please give her your postal address so she can remove you from that list. The Voter will be delivered to your inbox, in color, in PDF format. It is sent bcc, and the League does not share or sell its email list.

As always, email or snail mail is your choice. Your board wants to serve you in the best way possible.

[Local Leagues](#)

[Kansas City/JCP LWV](#)

Marie Kellogg (right), 95, joined the LWV in 2006 so she could have more information about the many legislative issues she faced at the ballot box. She took that a step further when she attended her first Legislative Day this March 13th. Marie lives at John Knox Village, volunteers at the Care Center, and serves as an escort for residents going to doctor appointments. She also enjoys Elder Hostel trips and is trying to decide if 95 is too old to travel to Africa. (reported by Donna Hoch, LWV KC/JCP)



Margie Richcreek and 300 other nominees were honored March 11th at the Inaugural First Lady Awards at the Governor's Mansion. Missouri's First Lady Melanie Blunt took this opportunity to recognize inspirational women of our past and to honor the amazing women of today. The LWVMO Board nominated Margie for her Volunteerism – to the League and the Kansas City area. Congratulations, Margie – you honor us! (reported by Joan Mills, LWVMO Director)

[SWMO LWV](#) (reported by Donna Bergen, LWVMO Energy Co-chair)

The Southwest Missouri League is nearing completion of their local study, “Green Building in Greene County.” At a recent meeting, topics studied were cost, lenders/realtors/appraisers, certification programs, health/school, multi-use and manufactured homes. For study, the membership was divided into six groups, and each group was given a folder that held one topic and background information. Each group reported their findings to the entire group. Not knowing what topic they would be given made the event interesting and fun. Response was exceptionally active and positive. Everyone received the total package for further study prior to taking consensus at our next meeting.

[St. Louis LWV](#) (reported by Betty Ann Gilbert, LWVMO 2nd VP)

Ann Niederlander, LWVMO President from 1961-1963, died October 23, 2007, at age 92. She began her legal career with the W.P.A., producing a code for city ordinances in a small Ohio town. After a varied career, including teaching law, legislative analysis, and lobbying for better working conditions for women in industry, she was elected the first woman judge in the greater St. Louis area in 1978.

LWVMO Council & LWVUS Convention

By Jo Sapp, LWVMO President

It may seem early to be thinking about LWVUS convention in June or Council at the end of May, but because of a scheduling fluke, this is our last *Voter* before either.

The League is in transition, and now more than ever it's important that Local Leagues partner with LWVUS in working toward a healthy organization for the coming decades. Convention is where decisions are made--about dues, about policy--and it's where our voices can be heard. Let's send a full Missouri delegation to Portland in June.

Council planning is underway and this year's session will feature dynamic and well informed speakers, as well as presentation of the Rachel Farr Fitch Award. You'll hear updates from Missouri's Leagues and the LWVMO directors on this year's efforts and activities, including the two important LWVUS initiatives we're involved with: Public Advocacy for Voter Protection and the Member Recruitment Initiative.

An afternoon MRI workshop will include successful strategies, tactics, and printed materials resulting from the first two years of the initiative, including the following tidbit: one of the most powerful and effective things any League can do is to structure every activity as a membership opportunity. Every forum and town hall meeting and workshop and committee meeting; every flyer and brochure and script and newsletter should contain two things: a constant and consistent message about the League and an invitation to join.

With that in mind: The League of Women Voters is the place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Please join us in working together to make democracy work. You'll be glad you did.



[Looking Forward To Spring Council](#)

[Featured Speaker](#)

Ed Duff will speak on *Mental Health in Missouri & Legislative Issues 2008*. Duff is the Policy Analyst and Outreach Specialist for the National Alliance on Mental Illness for Missouri and a member of the Governor's Council on Disability for the Seventh Congressional District. His presentation will cover these areas:

1. The state of mental health service in Missouri
2. The impact of the new program "Missouri Health Net" on consumers
3. System Transformation: what it is and will it happen?
4. Legislative issues
5. What can we do?

[Presentation of the Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award](#)

This award is given to an individual or group that has done outstanding work in the field of health care. Their service or activity must be compatible with LWV ideals and not in conflict with our program positions.

Each local League may submit one nominee. If you have not made your nomination, information and nomination forms are available from the LWVMO office (lwvmo@yahoo.com or phone 314-961-6869). The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2008.

The Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award will be presented following our luncheon. This prestigious award was last given to the Stowers Institute of Kansas City in 2006. Come and find out who will earn it this year.

[Ask The Board](#)

What does LWV mean? - League of Wonderful Volunteers. If you have any questions or topics that you would like the LWVMO board members to address at Spring Council, please email or snail mail them ASAP to Debby Howard at jackhowe@swbell.net or 12424 Dawn Hill Dr. Maryland Hts., MO 63043. Questions may be on Programs, Finance, Ed Fund, Membership, Procedures, Legislation, Voter Service, or anything else. The LWVMO Board's job is to help you, and we look forward to this opportunity to do so.



League of Women Voters of Missouri

Council, May 31, 2008, Preliminary Agenda
Oasis Hotel & Convention Center
2550 N. Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65803 Phone: (417) 866-5253

9:00 – 9:15	Registration	
9:15 – 9:30	Call to order, President’s Remarks	Jo Sapp
9:30 – 10:25	LWVMO Director Reports	
	PAVP	Mary Merritt
	Candidate Forum Planning	Peg Prendergast
	Missouri HealthNet Survey	Lael Von Holt
10:30 – 11:30	“Mental Health in Missouri & Legislative Issues 2008” Ed Duff, Policy Analyst and Outreach Specialist, National Alliance on Mental Illness for Missouri & Member of the Governor’s Council on Disability	
11:30 --12:00	Local League Reports	
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch speaker to be arranged	
	Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award	Joan Mills
1:35 – 2:30	Membership Recruitment Initiative	Betty Ann Gilbert
2:30 - 3:00	Member Q&A	Debby Howard
3:00	Wrap Up	

Registration Form

Name _____

League _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Cost - \$25.00, includes lunch. Make check payable to LWVMO and mail to
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144.

Reservations must be received by May 23, 2008.

Calendar

Apr. 30 – Rachel Farr Fitch Award deadline

May 9 – LWVMO Board Workshop in
Columbia

May 20 – *MoVoter* copy deadline

May 26 – Memorial Day

May 30 – LWVMO Board in Springfield

May 31 – Spring Council

June 13-17 – LWVUS Convention

July – LWVMO Board, TBA

July 20 – *MoVoter* copy deadline

Aug. 5 – Primary Election



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.tcitravel.com. Plans can be made on the website by destination or travel dates.

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