



Missouri Voter

Volume 69, Issue 3

The League of Women Voters

May/June 2008

Special Projects Attract Members!

By Jo Sapp, LWVMO President

LWVUS President Mary Wilson's weekly Leaders' Update frequently mentions funding offers for special projects that often result in unanticipated benefits. For example, using pass-through funding from LWVUS, the Civil Liberties Committee of my home League, Columbia-Boone County, participated in "Conversations on Civil Liberties," a highly visible and successful day-long event that generated public awareness, and enhanced the League's prestige. It also resulted in attracting several new members who continue to be active in the League. The committee is now working on a request for Constitution Day funding currently on offer from LWVUS, a project that offers an ideal way to kick off the League's year of activities in September.

With the help of LWVUS dollars, Southwest Missouri recently hosted a very successful visit from an Azerbaijani delegation studying openness in government. I don't know yet how this project has affected membership, but last year their membership grew because of a renewed public presence.

An active League generates visibility, prestige, and membership and LWVUS is there to help. For regular updates on offers, sign up for the Leaders' Update ("Get Involved" link under the "For Members" tab. Or go to "For Members," select "Projects and Programs" from the drop down menu, then click "opportunities." Either way, you'll find resources to help your Local League do well by doing good.

Two Leagues, SWMO and Sedalia, recently participated in special projects – both to great success! News and photos from these events are on the following pages.





After a day at the State Capitol, SWMO LWV members and their Azeri guests join LWV members from Columbia and Sedalia for dinner in Jefferson City.

SWMO LWV Hosts Future Leaders From Azerbaijan

By Lois Detrick, SWMO LWV President, and Charlotte King

The SWMO LWV had the exciting opportunity this spring to participate in a Cultural Exchange with future leaders of Azerbaijan. We spent eight busy days with six Azeris (including their interpreter who currently lives in the U.S.).

The theme of the visit was Accountable Governance which included days devoted to city government, education, banking, health, the judicial system, media, and state government with a trip to Jefferson City to observe the legislature in action.

We also had time to develop friendships with our guests through brunch with the board, a potluck with our League members, shopping, bowling, a baseball game, and a community-wide event where our guests shared the food, dances, and fun of Azerbaijan.

This exchange program is sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center, created by the U.S. Legislature after the dissolution of the USSR. The Center's purpose is to help future leaders of Soviet Bloc countries experience what democracy looks like in action and to sample American culture.

We received extensive guidelines and sample programs to follow and a pass-through grant to fund the event. Our League had a dynamite committee with wonderful connections in the city. Together they worked for about three months putting together a program we felt would showcase the Midwest.

The eight days with our new Azeri friends were so positive that many of our members would now like to visit Azerbaijan to complete the exchange.

Yes, the visit was a lot of work. Would we do it again? Absolutely! It really is a unique way to share how we help make democracy work.

[Sedalia LWV Sponsors Girl Scout Mock Election, 2008](#)

By Kathleen Boswell, LWV Sedalia and Sedalia News-Journal Staff Writer

More than 1,000 Girl Scouts and their leaders from across mid-Missouri converged on the Missouri State Fairgrounds the weekend of April 19 for their Heart of America Girl Scout Rendezvous, an event held every four years for girls ages 6 to 18.

Among the many activities, one of the most popular was the chance to vote. Although it was a mock election, the Sedalia-Pettis County LWV and the Pettis County Clerk worked to make it as real as possible. The girls and their leaders were to select from two candidates who they wanted for president, and to decide on the issue of mandatory recycling of paper and cardboard.

Those who had registered for the event were sent in advance the information on the two ladies running in the presidential race and a list of pro and con arguments for the recycling question.

As the girls approached the “polling place,” they were asked their names and then checked off from the registration list. They were given their ballots and told to use the special pens in the private voting booths. The girls put their ballots into one of the county’s Diebold ballot machines, which had been programmed to count the vote for this event. Each voter was given an “I Voted” sticker as they left. The voters also received brochures on elections and the LWVMO.

The polling place was open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. With 1,049 people registered for the rendezvous, the 550 votes cast represented a full 50 percent, much better than the national average.

The Sedalia League, with the help of several members of the Columbia LWV, staffed the polling place. The printing costs were covered by a grant from the Sprint Foundation through its education outreach for kindergarten to 12th grade.



Margaret Harlan, Sedalia LWV, checks in a Girl Scout – the first step in voting at the Mock Election.



Lael Von Holt, Columbia LWV, helps Girl Scouts and their leader use the ballot counting machine.

LWV and Secretary of State Carnahan Say No to Voter ID

By Janice Dahl, St. Louis LWV Vice-President

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan joined a group of Missouri voters on May 8 at the LWV office in St. Louis to discuss the possible disenfranchisement of up to 240,000 Missourians if a proposed government Photo ID requirement for voting was pushed through the Missouri legislature. Many voters present lacked the necessary government issued Photo ID that would be required to vote.

Doris Buzzell, LWV-STL President, spoke about the importance of protecting civil liberties and urged lawmakers to turn away this new effort to infringe on Missouri and St. Louis voters' right to go to the polls. "The League has fought against voter ID across the nation, and today we are proud to be able to stand with Secretary Carnahan as she continues her battle against this bad legislation."

LWVMO, LWV St. Louis, Missouri Pro-Vote, and Missourians for Fair Elections all oppose this constitutional amendment.

For more news on this busy legislative session, read on . . .

Legislative Wrap-Up

By Nancy Copenhaver, LWVMO Legislative Director

As the sun sets on another legislative session, Leaguers breathed sighs of relief. The photo ID requirement that would have disenfranchised many, failed. The Missouri Non-partisan Court Plan came through unscathed. The budget did not cut more people off healthcare (while not restoring coverage for thousands as hoped for). Vouchers (or tax credits) taking state dollars from public education were avoided. And the dragon of TABOR, which reared its ugly head, was slain once again.

Unfavorable legislation passed but not signed into law yet (although probable) includes: significant new tax credits, particularly one huge one for a Canadian company; elimination of campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide elective offices; and continued under funding of education (higher and lower), health care, and social services. Dubious changes include failure of standards for petition circulators in the initiative process and property tax changes that limit growth in local revenues when reassessment causes significant increases in property values.

Ending positively, however, the "Circuit Breaker" increase will aid senior citizens, mental health had advances in the treatment of autism and quality assurance for those in residential care, and (saving the best for last) new energy legislation with a number of good benefits for Missourians and our earth (see Legislative Bulletin #9 for details).

Renewable Energy Petition Reaches First Milestone

By Win Colwill, LWVMO Energy Co-Director

Supporters of the Clean Energy Initiative Petition felt elation and relief on May 6 as news spread that 170 signatures, 50% more than needed, had been turned in to the Secretary of State’s Office by the deadline. More than 400 volunteers, including League members, collected signatures in six congressional districts. Assuming enough signatures are validated, Missourians will have the opportunity next November to enact a law requiring investor-owned utilities to supply an increasing share of their electricity from renewable sources, such as wind and solar energy. Passage of a mandatory Renewable Energy Standard, has been a LWVMO legislative priority since 2000.

Immigration Consensus Becomes LWVUS Immigration Position

LWVUS has studied the consensus reports from the state leagues and determined the League’s Immigration Position. It is printed in it’s entirety in the *National Voter* or you can read it online at www.lwv.org . This is a great example of the “grass roots” nature of the League. Thanks to all for their hard work and participation.

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Local Leagues

St. Louis LWV (reported by Janice Dahl, STL LWV VP)

The St. Louis League is planning the *Yellow Umbrella Event*, a re-creation of the Walk-less, Talk-less Parade of 1916, which was part of the women’s suffrage movement. This event, to be held Saturday, September 6, at St. Louis University, will bring attention to voting rights in 2008. In this presidential election year, with LWVMO and the St. Louis League launching important, new voter service tools, it is a great time to bring our message of educated, empowered voting to the community. Kids Voting Missouri is partnering with STL LWV for the *Yellow Umbrella Event*. To participate or for more information, please call the St. Louis League at 314-961-6869.



Notes & Reminders

Voters' Dates. This is an exciting election year, and four dates are especially important to all voters:

- July 9 – last day to register to vote in the primary election
- August 5 – Primary Election
- October 9 – last day to register to vote in the general election
- November 4 – Election Day

See you at the polls!

2009 Calendars. The calendars are printed and ready for purchase. Early orders are being shipped. For more information, contact the League office at lwvmo@yahoo.com or call 314-961-6869.

Leaders' Roundtable. On August 9, the LWVMO board will host a leaders' roundtable in Columbia. This session will be designed to help new officers find the resources, including mentors, needed to make their jobs go smoothly. More details, including time and place, to be announced.

Fall Conference. Our Fall Conference will be held Saturday, October 25, at State Fair Community College in Sedalia. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Save Money. Save the Environment. The MissouriVoter is available by email – delivered to your inbox, in color, in PDF format. It is sent bcc, and the League does not share or sell its email list. If you would like to save some trees (paper) and LWV money (postage), email the League office now (lwvmo@yahoo.com) and ask for your emailed newsletter.

Publication Glitch. Due to technical difficulties (my computer crashed) this issue of the *MissouriVoter* is later than usual. My computer and I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. Charlotte King, Editor.

* * * * * Calendar * * * * *

- June 13-17 – LWVUS Convention
- July 9 – Last day to register to vote in primary election
- July 10 – *MissouriVoter* copy deadline (note schedule change)
- Aug. 5 – Primary Election
- Aug. 9 – LWVMO and leaders' roundtable
- Oct. 8 – Last day to register to vote in general election
- Oct. 24 – LWVMO board in Sedalia
- Oct. 25 – LWV Fall Conference in Sedalia
- Nov. 4 – Election Day

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 2009-2010 would be the time for you to serve, please complete this nomination form and return it to our committee for consideration. Thank you.

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.

Mail completed form to: Margie Richcreek, 1063 South Shore Dr., KC, MO 64151 (816) 741-1344
mogie10@juno.com

Deadline: February 1, 2009

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.

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 pd 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 Jo Sapp at the same address.
Voice: 314-961-6869 FAX: 314-961-8393
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