



MissouriVoter

Volume 69, Issue 5

The League of Women Voters

September/October 2008

Learn . . . Vote . . . Act . . . Win!

By Charlotte King, LWVMO Director and MissouriVoter Editor

The program for Fall Conference forms a circle – learn, vote, act, win! The components can be arranged in any order; the desired outcome is the same. We want and need to learn about the issues, vote responsibly, and act to continue the momentum of furthering LWV priorities. When we do all of this, we will win. We will win better legislation. We will win voter rights and protections. We will win members. To that end, the committee has planned a full day of working together to reach our goals:

9 a.m. – registration and networking

9:45 a.m. – Morning Session

LWVMO Update

Learn (discussion of the pros & cons of ballot issues)

12:15 p.m. – lunch and more networking opportunities

1 p.m. – Afternoon Session

Vote (thoughts about voting and the election processes)

Act (membership, lobbying, working on the local level, priorities)

and a bonus topic

Taxes (discussion of how taxes relate to just about everything)

It will be a day of stimulating conversation and ideas and fabulous door prizes. The stimulating conversation and ideas will occur all day. The door prizes will be given out at 3 p.m., just before we adjourn.

Please plan to join fellow League members on Saturday, October 25, at the Yeater Building, State Fair Community College, 3201 West 16th Street, Sedalia. Lunch is \$10 per person, and the registration form is inserted in this issue of the *MissouriVoter*.

If you would like to come on Friday and need information about home hospitality or a motel, please contact Mary at www.M.Merritt@charter.net or 660-826-2793. You're also invited to join the LWVMO Board for supper on Friday evening.

Looking forward to seeing you for another great Fall Conference!

Here are a couple of topics we'll be discussing in more detail at the conference:

Proposition C, Renewable Energy, *By Win Colwill, LWVMO Energy Co-Chair*

Voters statewide have an historic opportunity on November 4 to move Missouri toward a sustainable energy future by voting for the Renewable Energy Initiative. Proposition C requires Missouri's investor-owned utilities (AmerenUE, KCP&L, Aquila, and Empire) to produce or buy part of their electricity from renewable sources, including wind, solar and hydropower and biomass. The minimum percentage rises incrementally from 2% of electricity sales in 2011 to 15% in 2021, with at least 2% supplied by solar energy. The measure caps any utility rate increases associated with compliance at 1%.

Passage of a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) has been a LWVMO legislative priority since 2000. Twenty-six other states, including Iowa and Illinois, are already reaping the benefits of a similar policy. League members were among the 400 volunteers who circulated petitions to put the measure on the ballot.

Support Proposition C, the "Clean Energy Initiative" to:

- stimulate development of new "green" industries and jobs throughout Missouri
- reduce global warming emissions and other harmful pollutants through less reliance on coal-fired power plants
- improve electric grid security and reliability by diversifying electricity sources and on-site renewable energy systems

For more information: www.missouricleanenergy.org and www.sos.mo.gov/elections

Membership Recruitment Initiative, *By Lois Detrick, LWVMO Director & LWV SWMO President*

Hooray! We're finally a part of it! The participation of LWVMO Leagues expressing an interest in the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) is assured. LWVUS has expanded the scope of those Leagues participating to begin late fall to January 2010.

MRI is a model that helps Leagues understand that expanding membership is more than asking people to join or having good programs for them to come to. It's more than fund raising to advertise or pay speakers or put Voters' Guides together. It's all of this together with a greater understanding of the "hows and whys" of what we need to do to build our Leagues.

LWVUS likes to use the analogy of a bicycle. The front wheel, representing the national, state and local entities along with advocacy and education, determines the direction we take. The rear wheel, consisting of visibility, funding, and members, provides the power. MRI teaches us to "ride" that bike.

MRI has specific guidelines for some usual activities, new activities of medium difficulty, and activities that are major in scope. Activities are not dictated by LWVUS, but rather each League chooses from suggested ones or others they deem appropriate for their communities. Each League receives training and materials as they begin.

A big advantage of being part of MRI is the continuance of coaching, contact, and guidance from both state coordinators and LWVUS staff. Each participating League will report monthly on their progress. All this takes work, but, with clear direction and help along the way, it will be a purposeful and positive experience.

LWVMO Board Members Elaine Blodgett, Nancy Copenhaver, Lois Detrick, Betty Ann Gilbert, and Maydell Senn will assist the LWVUS in MRI for Missouri.

Long-Range Planning, Help Wanted

By Jo Sapp, LWVMO President

In early May of this year the LWVMO board gathered in Columbia to take first steps toward developing a long range planning process. Over the course of the day, Debby Waite Howard led us through a series of exercises designed to get the ball rolling, and many of us came away from that meeting with cheerful felt flowers to reward and remind us of our willingness to take on assignments that would keep the process moving forward.

Because of our participation in the LWVUS Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, we are acutely aware of the need for an overhaul of our website and communications capabilities. With that in mind, as well as increasing transportation costs, I accepted the assignment to look at various ways to bring our operations into the digital world, with special emphasis on online tools like gotomeeting.com and freeconference.com, as well as online schedulers and tools and techniques for conducting virtual meetings.

I know my way around a computer. I can search the internet with the best of them and track down problems in my system, if not like a pro, then at least well enough to keep consultant and repair fees to a minimum. I've been using a computer since 1982, when I bought a used TRS 80 to help with the heavy duty word processing of graduate school. Scarcely a day since has gone by without some screen and keyboard time.

I also know my limitations, and this assignment reaches beyond my comfort level. That said, I present the following advertisement and appeal:

Help Wanted: able, reliable, tech-savvy volunteers to form the core of a team to help us sort through our options as we stick a toe into the 21st Century. It's a short-term, part-time, temporary assignment with flexible hours and minimal pay that will bring considerable rewards of the non-monetary kind.

Interested parties may apply at djsapp1@mchsi.com and the positions will remain open until filled. I look forward to hearing from you.

Leaders' Roundtable



LWVMO President Jo Sapp and Janis McMillen, our LWVUS Liaison, at the Leaders' Roundtable.

Right photo: David Sapp, Joni O'Connor, Joan Mills, Debby Howard, Linda Kaiser, Janice Dahl, and Mary Merritt

About 30 League members – LWVMO board members and leaders from seven local Leagues – joined together August 9 for a Leaders' Roundtable – an opportunity to get together, share ideas and discuss problems and issues we are working on: elections & voter protection, membership, finances & development, and communication.



LWVMO Supports Missouri Mock Election, From Mary Merritt, LWVMO Director

On October 30, students from kindergarten through college can vote in an election simulation that gives them a voice in our democracy today and helps them become better citizens for tomorrow.

The 2008 Missouri Mock Election will be held as part of the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Children may vote in mock elections held by their schools, in their classrooms, within their service clubs, and at home with their families. There is no cost to participate.

For more information, go to www.missourimockelection.org. Teachers and parents will find educational material to enhance the study of elections and to guide the mock elections, including an interactive game for children.

Nationwide voting results will be posted at www.nationalmockelection.org. The Missouri Bar and the Missouri Press Association are partnering to coordinate Missouri's participation in this voter education program.

National Popular Vote, By Sydell Shayer, LWVMO off-board

If members agree, the League's new study on the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) would enable us to work for the direct election of the president without a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College.

The NPV gives the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes from all the states and the District of Columbia. Each state would give all its electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide. This requires identical legislation enacted in enough states so that the sum of their electoral votes are, at least, equal to a majority (270 of 538) of the total electoral votes of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

New LWVMO and LWV STL Executive Director, By Doris Buzzell, LWV STL President

Pearlina Boyd is the new Executive Director for the Missouri and St. Louis Leagues. She has recently been employed as a policy analyst for Vision for Children at Risk, St. Louis, and has credentials in Nonprofit Managements. She has a BS in Political Communications from Missouri State University and plans to complete her M.A. in Public Policy Administration from University of Missouri-St. Louis. Pearlina arrives at a busy time. We welcome her and wish her well!

Notes & Reminders



Vote! Tuesday, November 4. It's a big day with a big ballot! We'll be voting for national, state, and local leaders, plus several constitutional amendments, propositions, and initiatives. What a great day to see democracy in action!

Legislative Priorities. Your LWVMO Legislative Committee needs your input. What are your priorities for the upcoming legislative session? Please fill out the form on the insert in this issue of the *MissouriVoter* and send it with your registration for Fall Conference.

State Convention. The LWVMO board is working on the upcoming State Convention in Jefferson City and wants to plan programs and speakers that interest you. So, we need your help. What public figure would you drive 200 miles to hear? Please send your responses to Mary at M.Merritt@charter.net with the speaker on the subject line.

Upcoming Awards. Rachel Farr Fitch has agreed to chair the Harriett Woods and Lenore Loeb awards committee. These awards will be presented at the State Convention, so it is not too early to begin thinking about making a nomination. Details will be in an upcoming newsletter.

LWVMO Nominations. It's also time to begin thinking about LWVMO officers for the 2009-2011 term. Margie Richcreek of KC/JCP chairs the nominating committee and can be reached at mogie10@juno.com.

2009 Calendars. The 2009 Calendars, our big money-making project, are ready for your purchase. With Thanksgiving coming up, why not give calendars to all the people you're thankful for! To order your calendars, contact the LWVMO office: 314-961-6869 or email lwvmo@yahoo.com.

Emailed MissouriVoter. It's available to all members, just contact the office at lwvmo@yahoo.com and tell them you want to help the League save some money and the environment.

Local Leagues

Moberly/Randolph County LWV (reported by Janie Riley, President)

The Moberly-Randolph County LWV members are busy preparing for the Candidate Forum we will host the last week in October. This will be the third Forum of the year! We have several county offices and state offices on the November ballot and hope all contenders will be able to attend. We are also starting our Observer Corp. for the year which is always exciting and interesting. I personally want to thank the State Board for having some of their meetings in Columbia and Moberly. I find it beneficial to attend and see what is happening.

SWMO LWV (reported by Lois Detrick, President)

We started summer with our Informed Voter Series and expanded it at a second Q & A in Christian County, which more adequately reflects our "Southwest Missouri" name and our membership. Upcoming forums will include one for state candidates, one, with the Downtown Neighborhood Alliance, for local offices, and another in Christian County. Our General Meeting, September 29, is open to the public and will be an informational program on the Non-Partisan Court Plan and the gambling issue.

We have expanded our website and made it more comprehensive. Although we are still perfecting it, we are up and running and invite you to visit us at www.lwvswmo.org. We may also be accessed through the National website.

LWV STL (photo courtesy LWV-STL)

Kathleen Boswell, LWV Sedalia, in period costume, LWVMO President Jo Sapp, LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson, and LWV STL President Doris Buzzell lead the parade at the Yellow Umbrella Event.



Remembering the 1916 Golden Lane

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

On Saturday, Sept. 6, several dozen women, and a few men, gathered on St. Louis University campus to commemorate the women of 1916 and their efforts to get the right to vote for women. The "Yellow Umbrella Event" organized by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis paid tribute to the "Walkless, Talkless Parade" the suffragists held during the 1916 Democratic Convention in St. Louis.

The suffragists were all dressed in white with accents of yellow sashes or parasols, thus forming "The Golden Lane," as it was often referred to by the press. The nearly 7,000 women who gathered along the streets outside the convention headquarters in the Coliseum were not protesting; in fact, they were silent. They simply stood along the curb and made the men pass in front of and through their lines, and, in some ways, it was like running the gauntlet. This event was the turning point in the women's fight for their rights.

The Yellow Umbrella Event was intended as a reminder to all citizens of the hard work it took to get suffrage for everyone, and how important it is for everyone to make use of that right by voting in every election.

(Following the walk, LWVUS President Mary) Wilson told the group ... "Teach not only that voting is a responsibility but that it is fun...It is fun to learn about candidates and issues. We want people to think beyond the election day. We want you to keep making your voice heard."

(Ed. Note: Due to space limitations, Kathleen's article has been greatly condensed. If you would like to read more of her fascinating history of women's work for suffrage, please click on

<http://www.sedalianewsjournal.com/news/stories/WV/story.html>)

LWVMO Calendar 2008-20092008

| | |
|---------|--|
| Sept. 1 | Labor Day |
| 30 | Rosh Hashanah |
| 14 | Voter deadline to Editor |
| 17 | Constitution Day (1787) |
| 29 | Mail MoVoter |
| Oct 8 | Last Day to Reg. Voters |
| 9 | Yom Kippur |
| 13 | Columbus Day |
| 20 | State League Birthday |
| 24 | Board Meeting - Sedalia |
| 25 | Fall Conference - Sedalia |
| Nov 4 | Election Day |
| 11 | Veterans' Day |
| 14 | Voter deadline to Editor |
| 27/28 | Thanksgiving – office closed |
| 29 | Mail MoVoter |
| Dec | Legislative Planning |
| | LWVUS Membership Meeting |
| 22 | Hanukkah |
| 15-31 | Priorities letter to legislators; mail to homes during Xmas break |
| 24-31 | Office closed |
| 25 | Christmas |

2009

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Jan 1 | New Year's Day – office closed |
| | Lobby Day |
| 10 | Board Meeting – Columbia |
| 19 | Martin Luther King Holiday |
| 14 | Voter deadline to Editor |
| | Candidate Filing |
| 24 | Board Meeting –Alternate Date |
| 29 | Mail MoVoter |
| Feb 14 | LWV Birthday |
| 16 | President's Day |
| Mar | <i>Women's History Month</i> |
| 6 | Social event w/St. Louis |
| 7 | Board Meeting – St. Louis |
| 14 | Voter deadline to Editor |
| 29 | Mail MoVoter |
| TBD | Legislative Day |
| April 9 | Passover |
| 10/12 | Easter |
| 24 | Board Meeting – Alternate |
| 25/26 | State Convention – Alternate |
| May 1 | Board Meeting – Jeff City |
| 2/3 | State Convention – Jeff City |
| 10 | Mother's Day |
| 14 | Voter deadline to Editor |
| 25 | Memorial Day |
| 29 | Mail MoVoter |
| June 13-15 | LWVUS - Council |
| 21 | Father's Day |
| July 3 | Independence Day Observed |
| TBA | Board Meeting |
| 14 | Voter deadline to Editor |
| 29 | Mail MoVoter |

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
Email: lvvmo@yahoo.com

LWVMO Fall Conference

Saturday, October 25, 2008, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
State Fair Community College, Yeater Building, 3201 West 16th Street, Sedalia
Cost \$10 per person – Reservations due by October 17

Learn . . . Vote . . . Act . . . Win!

9 a.m. - registration and networking

9:45 a.m. - Morning Session

LWVMO Update, Learn (discussion of the pros & cons of ballot issues)

12:15 p.m. - lunch and more networking opportunities

1 p.m. - Afternoon Session

Vote (thoughts about voting and election processes), Act (membership, lobbying, working on the local level, priorities)

Taxes (discussion of how taxes relate to just about everything)

Registration

LWV of _____

Persons attending:

Delegates

Members

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

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

(Please use reverse side to list your legislative priorities.)

Your Legislative Priorities

From the LWVMO Legislative Committee

Your Legislative Committee would like your input into the priorities for legislative action for the 2009 Legislative Session. This year will see a new governor and many new faces in the legislature, so we need to be ready to hit the ground running.

Past priorities have included: ensuring a fair electoral process, stable tax policy, energy initiatives to reduce global warming, access to healthcare including mental health, access to quality public education, children’s safety, maintaining the non-partisan court plan, campaign finance reform, immigration, the death penalty, and other issues.

Please take some time to think about YOUR priorities while you are on your morning walk or stuck in traffic and e-mail or snail mail your suggestions to the St. Louis office by October 17, if possible. (LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144-2724 or lwvmo@yahoo.com.)

The Committee will send a letter to newly-elected legislators at their homes prior to the start of the new session, including priorities for League. Access to great new technology (Capwiz) will make communicating with members and contacting legislators much easier for all this year, helping us to truly make a difference.

Working with other groups we were successful in stopping several ill-advised measures last session and we look forward to maintaining our “proactive” stature. Please let us hear from you.

In order of your preference:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Comments:

(Please use reverse side to register for Fall Conference.)