



# Missouri Voter

Volume 70, Issue 1

The League of Women Voters

January/February 2009

## Let's talk!

*By Jo Sapp, LWVMO President*

At heart, the League is in the communication business: we listen to each other to learn what our members' concerns are. We study, learn, discuss until we reach consensus on key ideas and issues. Then we host forums and write letters and make our priorities known to our legislators. We also listen to their concerns and objections, knowing that we are most effective when we treat communication as a two-way street.

Over the past several months LWVMO has been working on ways to make communication easier. A critical component to this effort is our cooperation with LWVUS in the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, "a state-based advocacy effort that aims to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly those in underserved populations." Our participation in PAVP gives us access to Capwiz, a powerful database and alert system that allows us to reach members and sympathetic Missourians on issues we care deeply about. More importantly, Capwiz makes it easy for those who respond to our messages to express their opinions to members of the General Assembly. Last year we used Capwiz as part of a successful campaign to get our message out about the dangers of photo ID requirements at the polls. This year we're looking at ways to integrate its capabilities with our other communications.

The PAVP money also made it possible for us to migrate to the California Easy Web template and website hosting service. We've retained our web address, [www.lwvmissouri.org](http://www.lwvmissouri.org). Check out our upgrades and let us know what you think.

Finally, we're looking at ways to stay in touch with you and to help local Leagues stay in touch with each other. For example, Columbia-Boone County's civil liberties committee is looking at election issues that mesh with LWVMO's PAVP efforts. We've invited the co-chairs of that committee to join us on the conference calls and e-mail communications we receive from LWVUS staff. By pooling our resources and talent we can avoid duplication of effort and expand our voice out into the world.

Communication is a wonderful thing. Let's talk.

## *All Things Legislative*

*By Nancy Copenhaver,  
LWVMO Legislative Director*



### **LWVMO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2009**

League priorities are:

- \*Electoral process that is fair, accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable, and uniform
- \*Energy initiatives to reduce global warming
- \*Access to quality, affordable healthcare, including mental health
- \*Children's safety and well-being

League supports and continues to monitor:

- \*Tax policy that promotes financial stability and adequate funding for state services
- \*Equal access to quality public education for all Missouri children
- \*Consumer protections

### **LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

Beginning with the January 23<sup>rd</sup> issue, the Legislative Bulletin will be sent by e-mail to members every two weeks during the legislative session. If you wish to receive the Bulletin by snail mail, contact the office at LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144 and include a check for \$10 to cover mailing costs. We hope to utilize a new program (Capwiz), which will allow for quick and easy responses from members to action alerts. Lobbying your legislator can be as simple as a few "mouse clicks" with this great program doing most of the work, yet allowing for personalization.

## **LEGISLATIVE DAY IN JEFFERSON CITY – COMING IN MARCH**

Save Tuesday, March 31, on your calendar for LWVMO Legislative Day in the Missouri Capitol. Plans are tentative but should include visits by several key legislators regarding issues of particular concern to League, updates on legislation progressing, and time to meet with individual legislators to promote League's positions. Networking with other League members around the state while sharing a box lunch will be followed by a tour of the newly refurbished Governor's Mansion from 1:30-2:00.

## **LEAGUERS WELCOME NEW LEGISLATORS**

Bright and early the morning following the inauguration festivities (January 13), League members from Columbia, Mexico, and Moberly provided breakfast goodies for freshman legislators in the Capitol basement. Over 25 legislators and legislative assistants stopped in to meet us, pick up another copy of our priority card, and engage in informal conversations about items of interest, possible legislation, and making that important face-to-face contact. League members were pleased by the enthusiasm shown by these newly elected representatives of both parties, especially for energy (green) issues, access to healthcare, and improving the electoral process.



### **[LWVMO Needs You!](#) *By Margie Richcreek, Nominations Chair***

The Nominating Committee appreciates Leaguers from across the state accepting nominations for positions on our State Board. Before we can submit our slate, we need to fill the role of Secretary. This is an excellent position for many of you who might be interested in learning how the state board operates but hesitant to accept a Director's specific portfolio right away. Please let us know if you would be willing to accept the position of State Board Secretary for 2009-2011 – just e-mail Margie Richcreek, [mogie10@juno.com](mailto:mogie10@juno.com), today!

## *Local Leagues Highlight Green Energy*

*By Win Colwill, LWVMO Energy Director*

Effective federal action to reduce global warming emissions is a top priority of the League of Women Voters. Local league action for a Missouri Renewable Electricity Standard and other activities in Mexico, Springfield, and Columbia illustrate local League efforts to increase public understanding about the connection between energy use and climate change and the critical need for action nationwide.



Last month, following a presentation on “Being Green,” Mexico League members discussed practical ways to reduce their “carbon footprints” and made plans to update their recycling brochure that is distributed community-wide. The Southwest Area LWV has produced a carefully researched report, “Building Green in Greene County.” League members also conducted tours of “green” homes and businesses that demonstrate exceptional energy efficiency, including one that is expected to meet the U. S. Green Building Council’s LEED Platinum standards.

In exhibits at sustainability fairs, in recycling and CFL bulb projects with University students, and in public statements, the Columbia-Boone County LWV highlighted the need for CO2 reduction. At the “Utility Bill-Cutters Workshop” in March, energy experts from the community, city utility, and electric cooperative will give energy-saving tips and information about utility incentives and programs, such as “Home Performance with Energy Star” (see <http://www.missourihomeperformance.org/index.html>).

## *Notes & Reminders*

**Let the Sunshine In.** At the January board meeting, LWVMO agreed to join the Missouri Sunshine Coalition. The newly incorporated Missouri Sunshine Coalition is associated with the national Freedom of Information Coalition, and voting membership is available to both groups and individuals. To help kick off Sunshine Week, the inaugural meeting and reception will be held from 2-4 p.m., Thursday, March 12, at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. For more information about the National Freedom of Information Coalition, click on <http://www.nfoic.org/foi-center>.

**Women’s March.** March is Women’s History Month – a great time to recognize women’s contributions to our society, civilization, and survival. For more information on just about everything “women,” click on <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenshistory1.html>. This also would be the ideal time to watch HBO’s 2004 movie, *Iron Jawed Angels*, about women’s fight to pass the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. (It’s available at some video stores and online at Netflix and Blockbuster.com.)

**Great Gifts.** To thank speakers, recognize a member’s accomplishments, or just because: Give an LWV pin or note cards. Prices have been reduced, so you can order several items. The order form is inserted in this issue of the *MissouriVoter* or you can order online at [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com). This great opportunity won’t last long – order today!

**LWVMO Calendars.** The year is just starting. You still have time to order and use your 2009 Appointment Calendar designed for LWV members and friends. The LWV is “A Voice for Citizens; A Force for Change.” All profit from the calendar sales goes to support that belief. Order today: Email – [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com) or call 314-961-6869.

**New Year’s Resolution #1.** Get the *MissouriVoter* online, in color, in PDF format. Contact the League office at [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com) now!

### [Calendar](#)

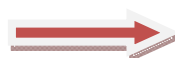
- Feb. 14 – LWV’s 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Feb. 15 – Loeb and Woods Awards nominations close
- Feb. 16 – President’s Day
- March – Women’s History Month
- March 31 – Legislative Day
- April 1 – Last day to make special-rate hotel reservations for Convention
- April 28 – Last day to register for 59<sup>th</sup> State Convention
- May 2-3 – LWVMO 59<sup>th</sup> State Convention
- June 13-15 – LWVUS Council in Washington, DC



*Remember State Convention 2007?*

*It’s time for State Convention 2009!!!*

*Turn the page*



## **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! – LWVMO 59<sup>TH</sup> STATE CONVENTION**

*By Debby Waite Howard, State Convention Chair*

All current League members are invited to participate in determining the future of the LWVMO for the next two years. Each local League has been requested to send a specific number of delegates to vote on State program, budgets, by-laws and new board and officers. All other League members may attend as observers with the privilege of the floor.

There is more to convention than business. Speakers from State government and the national League have been invited to discuss election reform and national League initiatives. Workshops will explain the Membership Recruitment Initiative (how local Leagues will be participating) and Capwiz – a computer tool for advocacy (how local Leagues can use it).

League advocacy experts will share their knowledge with informal groups, covering Health Care, Energy, Taxes, Election Reform, Children's issues, and other topics.

The best part of Convention is you sharing your experiences and local League successes with all of us.

***Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3,  
to join statewide League members in Jefferson City  
at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty St.***

***LET'S MAKE THIS A CONVENTION FOR EVERYONE TO REMEMBER!***

### Nitty Gritty Details:

- Specific information on speakers and schedules will be reported as soon as it is available.
- Local Leagues will receive a form for registering their delegates. The local League president and board must approve all delegates.
- Local Leagues should have scheduled program planning procedures for January or the first part of February.
- A registration form for Observers is provided in this issue of the *MissouriVoter*.
- Registration fee is \$90.00 which includes 3 meals and all convention materials.
- Hotel room rates are \$85.00 + tax for single or double. Reservations must be made by April 1, 2009, to get the group rate. (You can always cancel if your plans change before the convention.) Call 1-573-635-1234 now to reserve your room.

**LWVMO 59<sup>TH</sup> STATE CONVENTION - OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM**  
**(Delegates will be registered by the presidents of the local Leagues.)**

I am a current member of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Local League Name)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My check or money order for \$90.00 for registration for the State Convention is enclosed.  
(Registration fee includes 3 meals and all convention materials.)

**Return form to: LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144**

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The 59<sup>th</sup> State Convention will be held on May 2-3, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 415 W. McCarty St. in Jefferson City, MO.

**You must make your own reservations with the hotel.** Phone: 1-573-635-1234. For the League rate of \$85.00 + tax, single or double, give the group name: League of Women Voters.

**DEADLINES**

**February 15 – Nominations for Lenore Loeb and Harriet Woods Awards close.**

**February 23 – All recommendations for State Program and By-law Changes from local Leagues are due in the League office.**

**March 9 – First day Convention Workbook #1 will be mailed to registered Convention delegates and observers.**

**April 1 – HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY THIS DATE.**

**The special rate for LWVMO is not in effect after this date.**

**April 15 – Last day Convention Workbook #1 will be mailed to registered delegates and observers.**

**April 28 – Last day to register for Convention!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 – SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009**  
**LWVMO 59<sup>TH</sup> STATE CONVENTION**  
***SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!***

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

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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](mailto:lvvmo@yahoo.com)

## Order Form for LWV pins and note cards

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Suffragist Pin		10.00 ea	
Flapper Pin		5.00 ea	
Capitol Woman		5.00 ea	
LWV Lapel Pin		7.95 ea	
Suffragist Note Cards - 5 per pack		3.50 pack	

Above prices include shipping & handling charges.

Orders may be placed online, by phone, FAX, or mail.

Credit Card payments accepted through PayPal.

Mail: League of Women Voters of Missouri  
 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144  
 Phone: 314-961-6869 FAX: 314-961-8393  
 Email: [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com)

Make checks payable to: LWVMO

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_