



Missouri Voter

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The League of Women Voters

January/February 2010

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters

*By Mary Merritt, LWVMO 90th Anniversary Chair
(with Charlotte King, Missouri Voter Editor,
Linda Kaiser, Columbia/BC LWV,
and LWVUS @ www.lwv.org)*

On February 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded on the idea that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. That idea, that mission, has continued for 90 years.

The League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government, and it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

From the beginning the League took action on its stands; for several years, through effective lobbying, the League got selected issues included in the platforms of both major political parties and worked for enactment of legislation furthering its program goals. Over the years many procedural changes have been made in the way League program is defined, adopted, and structured, but through all the changes the basic concept of study-member agreement-action has remained constant.

The League remains political, but non-partisan. It never supports political parties or candidates, but it does study issues, develop consensus positions, and then actively work to support those positions. The League, our League, fosters education in citizenship, promotes forums and public discussion of civic reforms, and supports needed legislation.



90 years! It's time to celebrate our success and look to the future! The celebration will be Saturday, April 24, at a luncheon in St. Louis. The program committee is planning a panel discussion that will not only review our past and how far we've come, but give us a guide on where we go in the next 90 years.

Local Leagues have been invited to honor a person (not necessarily a League member) for community service and support of LWV. Please contact your local president for more information.

We will honor 50-year members and present the Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award (more information on the award is in this newsletter).

We will have the drawing for the Missouri Quilt and unveil the National Quilt.

Your official invitation will be mailed soon. In the meantime, you can contact our office, and make your reservations – \$90 for the 90th contribution includes your luncheon ticket and a donation to LWVMO; tickets for the luncheon only are \$40 for LWVMO members.



The Missouri Quilt was hand-quilted by Ann Trelow (front) and Mary Miller, the “Quilting Cousins” from LaMonte.



More exciting celebration notes:

The beautiful Missouri quilt is finished. It is done in muted shades of brown, blue, and red with blocks honoring women important to our history. Please start pushing the sale of drawing tickets (remember, this is a fund-raiser for your state League). You can get tickets from your local League president or Mary at m.merritt@charter.net

The booklet with bios of the women honored on the quilt is almost ready to go to press. Written by Jo Sapp (Columbia/BC LWV), this booklet will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

Work continues on the LWVMO Memory Book to be given to those at the luncheon. All League contributions (articles or photos) are due in the office NOW, certainly no later than Monday, March 1. If you have questions or need information, please contact Peg, Joan, or Mary at the office – league@lwvmissouri.org

90th lapel pins, mugs, coasters, and stickers are available at our Online Store or from your local League.

We are working to upgrade our website and hope to have more information there soon. www.lwvmissouri.org

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Legislation 2010

By Nancy Copenhaver, LWVMO Legislative Director

This is the second year of this term of the Legislature. With a returning governor, much activity has already taken place. Legislators began pre-filing legislation December 1, many committees have met, budget hearings have been ongoing, and informative seminars for legislators and the public have been held. The consensus revenue estimate has been agreed to by the House, Senate, and Governor which allows work to begin quickly to bring the 2010 budget in line with state income and begin planning for the 2011 budget which begins July 1, 2010. The Governor’s State of the State Address was January 20, kicking things into high gear. With huge numbers of legislators being term-limited, many of whom are competing against each other for new jobs, predicted funding running approximately \$1 billion behind, and an election year—well, things should never be dull.

If you have not received the LWVMO *Legislative Bulletin* for 2010, please contact Anna at the office with your e-mail address. If you wish to have a paper copy, there is a \$10 charge for copying and postage.



League priority, making democracy work:

- Electoral process that is fair, accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable and uniform, including:
 - campaign finance reform
 - ethics reform
 - progress toward elimination of term limits
 - opposition to a required voter photo ID
 - changes to the voting process that encourage citizen participation
 - appropriate use of initiative petition
 - compact and contiguous redistricting
- Tax policy promoting financial stability and adequate funding for state services

League supports and continues to monitor:

- Equal access to quality public education for all Missouri children
- Energy initiatives to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change
- Access to quality, affordable healthcare, including mental health, and preventive public health measures
- Maintaining the non-partisan court plan for selecting judges
- Death penalty moratorium
- Child safety and well-being

LWVMO Activities in Jefferson City

February 23 is the *first day of filing* for the August primary and November general elections. Traditionally, League members have gathered at the Secretary of State's office with refreshments, information, and welcoming smiles for those citizens stepping up to offer their service in governing our state. If you are interested in helping, contact Lael Von Holt (Columbia).

Save **March 23** on your calendar for *LWVMO Legislative Day* in the Missouri Capitol. It promises to be stimulating and fun, well worth your time and effort. The day will start at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast provided in the Capitol basement, HR 2. We will have visits by several key legislators regarding issues of particular concern to League, updates on legislation progressing, visiting the House and Senate chambers, and time to meet with individual legislators to promote League's positions. You will receive packets of information with information about priority bills, lobbying tips, lists of legislators, and maps of the Capitol—everything you need for a successful day. Networking with other League members around the state while sharing a box lunch in HR 2 (we have it scheduled all day) will be followed by a special activity TBA. The only cost is for food, \$15 for breakfast and lunch, which can be paid on the 23rd. Please call in the number of persons attending by 3 p.m. March 18 to plan appropriate amounts of food (314-961-6869 or 660-263-5725).

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It's the Numbers That Make the Difference

By Elaine Blodgett, LWVMO MRI Chair

With so much going on politically, it seems like there's a clear call for League members to get more active locally, statewide, and nationally. Besides getting more active politically, we need more people to get politically active with, and that involves finding more people to join LWV. *It's the numbers that make the difference when an organization speaks.*

Here are some membership recruitment suggestions from Marcia A. Merrins, LWVUS Board, LWVUS Membership Services Committee:

When we approach prospective members, more often than not, their response for not joining has to do with time:

- * I'm involved with other activities
- * I have no time for another organization
- * My family responsibilities keep me from joining
- * My work requires all of my time
- * I am away for the winter

How Much Time Does It Take To Be Active In League?

Do you have an extra 5 minutes once a year?

In 5 minutes you can pay your dues or click a button to make your voice heard or check lww.org, your local League website, your LWVMO website, or join LWV on Facebook!

Do you have an extra 20 minutes a month?

In 20 minutes you can read what your dues pay for: your local League Bulletin, or the Missouri Voter, or The e-Voice Susan Bee. Or all three if you are a speed reader!

Do you have an extra hour or two here and there?

In an hour or two, you can: distribute voters' guides around town, observe a public meeting in your community, do voter registration, man a League booth, make phone calls, attend a League meeting, welcome guests at a candidate forum or other meeting, or join a study committee .

Five minutes, 20 minutes, an hour or two – That is Being Active in League! Join Us!

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Census 2010

By Linda McDaniel, LWVMO Director

Census 2010 is coming. The 10 question census form will be mailed in March to be filled out and returned by April 1. The census is totally confidential (no other government agency has access to the information) and is meant to count every person living in the United States, not just legal residents. Many fear they will be tracked down if they fill out the census, but it is important that we have a complete count and that everyone fills out the form which is available in many languages.

The census is a snap shot in time, it tells who we are and how we have changed – our race, age, families, housing, economic status, and much, much more. The data is used by everyone: all levels of government, researchers, and businesses. It is our data and free, readily available on the Internet.

The census, mandated every 10 years by the Constitution, Article 1, Section 2, was first conducted in 1790. Its purpose then, and today, is to determine the number of representatives for each state. The Census Bureau in the Department of Commerce conducts the census and reports to Congress in January 2011 the population of each state and, therefore, the number of representatives for each.

It is up to the states to redraw the district boundaries. (In 1980 Missouri lost population in relation to the other states and lost one congressional representative. It does not seem likely that Missouri will lose a seat this decade.) This same population count is used for redrawing boundaries of state house and senate districts, as well as county and city districts.

The census is important to every community; it gives us the information to address our changing society. Data is used to allocate more than \$300 billion of federal and state money for governmental programs. Locally, data helps determine the need for new hospitals, roads, social services, emergency services, etc.

Although the law requires census forms be filled out and returned, common sense requires it, too. Be sure to complete your census form and return it by April 1.

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Save with State and Federal Energy Incentives

By Win Colwill, LWVMO Energy Director

Missourians spend more than \$18 billion dollars annually on fuels for heating, electricity, and transportation – approximately \$3000 per person. Most of these dollars exit the state to pay for fuels produced elsewhere, draining our economy.

Rising fuel costs and increased electric demand have caused many utilities to raise electric rates and seek new power sources. Many ratepayers are unaware that 45% of Missouri’s global warming emissions come from electricity use. Or that increased conservation and energy efficiency can delay the need for costly new power plants and reduce damaging emissions.

Now is the time to take advantage of state and federal incentives to improve home energy efficiency and reduce electricity costs. A 30% federal tax credit up to a total of \$1500 is available to homeowners until Dec. 31, 2010, for upgrading windows and doors, insulation, heating and cooling equipment, and installing wood-burning stoves and geothermal heat pumps. (see details at www.energystar.gov)

St. Louis, Kansas City, and Columbia offer rebates up to \$1200 for comprehensive “Home Performance” energy audits performed by DNR-certified auditors. In addition, Missouri taxpayers can claim a state income tax deduction up to \$2000 for the cost of the audit and the cost of implementing recommended measures. (www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/residential/homeenergyaudits.htm)

Get ready – in April DNR plans to launch “Energize Missouri Appliance Rebate” program with \$5.6 million in federal stimulus funds to encourage purchases of Energy-Star qualified appliances, including furnaces, water heaters, clothes washers, dishwashers, and more. (www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissourirebate.htm)

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The Challenge of Autism

By Lael Von Holt, LWVMO Mental Health/Health Director

Autism is the fastest growing children's neurodevelopmental disorder in the United States. According to recent estimates, 1.5 million individuals are affected, with a variable ratio upwards to 1 in 150 children, mostly boys. Financially and emotionally, the impact on families is profound. The resistance of health insurers to cover cost of diagnosis and treatment has not served Missouri's citizen’s well.

Autism, often referred to as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a complex group of neurodevelopmental problems in social interaction, communication, speech, eye contact, explosive episodes, and repetitive behaviors.

Symptoms appear in infancy and early childhood. Parents know that something is wrong when their baby doesn't look at them, doesn't respond to voice or name, doesn't babble or return a smile, or when their child erupts in screaming or head banging, is preoccupied with objects, ignores peer play, and struggles with language. Professional diagnosis and treatment is essential, the sooner the better. The challenge is to find appropriate resources and help with cost.

The Challenge of Autism can be found in the mystery of its cause, the increasing number of individuals diagnosed, the severity of symptoms, lack of cure, family stress, and resistance of insurers.

Momentum is building in our legislature for autism funding and health insurance coverage. Insurance legislation failed last session, but looks more hopeful this session. SB618, HB1311, and HB1341 are already advancing in committee or perfection.

Hope comes from having research and treatment facilities like the MU Thompson Center and other research programs focused on brain development, social interaction, genetics, environment, and eye response. Hope also comes from increased awareness, promising treatment options, and bipartisan support in the Missouri Legislature and Governorships.

Leaguers can be a part of this effort. Stay informed, check out local resources, read our *Legislative Bulletin*, and talk to your legislators on behalf of Missouri's autistic children.

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New LWVMO Directors

At the January 15 board meeting, LWVMO President Lois Detrick presented two candidates for appointment to the LWVMO Board of Directors – Cheryl Barnes and Linda Vogel, both from the KC/JCP LWV. The motion to approve both as new board members passed unanimously. We welcome them both and look forward to their input.



Cheryl Barnes

Cheryl is the communications director for Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative, which serves a rural and suburban area north of Kansas City, MO. She has worked in that capacity in the telecommunications industry, including cable TV, an Internet service provider, and cellular and landline telephone companies.

Cheryl first joined the League of Women Voters in Appleton, WI, and served on their board where her portfolio was Voter Service and included registering voters and interviewing candidates for the public access channel in Appleton.

When Cheryl moved to the Kansas City area, she rejoined the League. Many of you have become acquainted with her this year through her work with Donna Hoch as co-chair of the Early Voting Study. Cheryl’s LWVMO portfolio will include looking for grants and funding opportunities to help support the League’s work. If you have suggestions, please send them to her at cbarnes7223@yahoo.com



Linda Vogel

In 2007, Linda Vogel completed a nearly 40-year career with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), most of which was in the HHS HQ in the Washington, D.C. area. This included 30 years in the Office of International and Refugee Health where she served in various posts, including Director from 1994-1998 and then as Health Attaché at the U.S. Mission in Geneva, Switzerland, where she worked closely with the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, and the International Federation of the Red Cross.

She also worked in the Office of the Surgeon General, developing the Medical Reserve Corps of the USA Freedom Corps. In 2003, she was appointed HHS Regional Health Administrator, Region VII (Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska) in KCMO.

Following her retirement from the Federal Government, she was appointed to the KCMO Mayor’s Health Commission. Not only is she active in League, she volunteers at Swinney Elementary, a Kansas City urban school, where she works with a Spanish-speaking child to develop his English-language and reading capability. She and a colleague also initiated a gardening project at the school to engage students in this joyful and productive activity.

Linda joins Lael Von Holt to cover health issues for LWVMO. Lael will focus on mental health while Linda’s focus will be on public health issues. Both Linda and Lael will be following several House and Senate bills – for more information, please check your *Legislative Bulletin*.

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Local Leagues

Mexico/AC LWV (from Jane Rankin)

Our League is one of the financial supporters of the local YMCA’s *Youth in Government* program. Each year, about 40 Mexico teens learn about issues facing Missouri’s state government. In addition, they prepare and debate “bills” in mock legislative bodies with other *Youth in Government* groups throughout the state. Our League members were especially gratified to learn four Mexico High School students had the distinction of being elected to state offices by their peers – Wes Hitchcock, youth state Governor; Robert Sleighfreid, Lt. Governor; Vanessa Hays, Speaker of the House; and Ben Zinkel, Chief Justice of the MO Supreme Court.

Columbia/BC LWV (from Linda Kaiser)

On Friday, December 11, 2009, the League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone County celebrated its 90th birthday with a luncheon and recognition of its Outstanding Citizen awardees, Paul Pepper and James Mouser. Poster boards and scrapbooks were displayed, showing Leaguers in action over the years. Joining us was LWVMO President Lois Detrick. In addition, we heard an outstanding presentation from MU Professor Catherine Rymph on the role the League played in teaching women, and men, in other countries about voting after WW II.



Columbia/BC LWV member Lucille Salerno with Outstanding Citizen Awardees James Mouser and Paul Pepper.

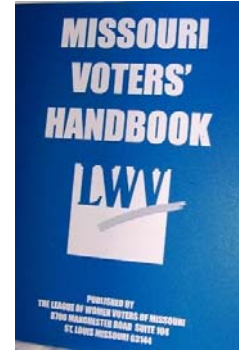
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In Brief

Missouri Court Plan. Initiated by the local League in Columbia, the state board, at its January meeting, approved a project with the Missouri Bar Association to provide information on the Missouri Court Plan to citizens throughout the state. Coordinated by the Bar Association, local teams of lawyers and League members would speak to service and civic groups. We would emphasize the role of the League in helping pass the citizen's initiative that created the Nonpartisan Court Plan, now used in whole or part by more than 30 other states. See your local League president for more information and to join in this effort. (from Linda Kaiser, LWV Columbia/BC)

Emailed Missouri Voter. Colorful, convenient, cost saving, earth friendly. Get your newsletter online. Email the office, and Anna or Julie will do the rest.

LWVMO Online Store. We have wonderful League items available at our Online Store – 90th Celebration mugs, lapel pins, stickers; Missouri Voters' Handbook (see cover below); 2010 calendars; pins and notes cards. Take a look and order something special today!



Contact Your LWVMO

LWVMO
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144
Phone: 314-961-6869
Fax: 314-961-8393
Email: league@lwvmissouri.org
Website: www.lwvmissouri.org

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Calendar

- Feb. 14 – LWVUS 90th Anniversary!
- Feb. 15 – President's Day – office closed
- Feb. 23 – Filing Day in Jefferson City
- Feb. 26 – Early Voting Study – consensus reports due in State office
- Mar. 1 – Memory Book info due in office
- Mar. 2 – LWVMO President in LWV office
- Mar. 10 – Last day to register for April 6 elections
- Mar. 12 – LWVMO board meeting – Columbia Early Voting Study – position announced
- Mar. 14 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar. 15 – RFF Health Care Award – nominations due in office
- Mar. 18 – RSVP by 3 p.m. for Legislative Day
- Mar. 23 – Legislative Day in Jefferson City
- Apr. 24 – 90th Anniversary Celebration!**

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 \$100, which will be split 50/50 between LWVMO and the local League.

You may call Travel Concepts at 1-800-762-4216 or navigate their website at www.SeriousTraveler.com Plans can be made on the website by destination or travel dates.

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Charlotte King, Editor

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8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

All other correspondence to Lois Detrick at the same address.

Voice: 314-961-6869 FAX: 314-961-8393

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org

Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award

From the Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award Committee

The Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award is given to an individual or group that has done outstanding work in the field of health care. The nominee does not have to be a member of the League of Women Voters. The service or activity does not have to be a League project, but it must be compatible with LWV ideals and not in conflict in any way with our program positions.

Each local League may submit one nominee. Written nominations should follow the format set up and available from LWVMO office. A committee appointed by LWVMO president will select the winner.

Criteria:

1. The number of people served or impacted.
2. The project was health care service that impacted the community or world.
3. The number of people involved in carrying out the activity.
4. The project should have taken place in the last two (2) years.
5. Special consideration will be given to other groups that were networked during the project.

Nomination information required includes description, time frame, and outcome of the project; number of people involved; and, resources and other groups used to carry out the project.

Nomination forms are available from the LWVMO office (league@lwvmissouri.org or phone 314-961-6869).

Nominations are due March 15, 2010, and nominees must be able to attend the presentation. The award, given each two (2) years, will be announced and presented at LWVMO State Council on April 24 in St. Louis.

Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award – 2010 Nomination Form

Name of League making the nomination _____

Time frame of the project _____

Number of people involved _____

Description of the project _____

(If more space is needed, attach separate sheet.)

Outcome of project _____

Resources and other groups used to carry out the project _____

Attach newspaper clipping or other sample of publicity received for the project as supporting material.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE LWVMO OFFICE BY MARCH 15, 2010.

Mail: LWVMO, Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

FAX: 314-961-8393

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org