



Missouri Voter

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The League of Women Voters

November/December 2008

Fall Conference 2008

A great day to meet, greet, learn, and discuss!

About 30 LWV members from across the state gathered in Sedalia on Oct. 25 to become better informed about the initiatives and amendments on the election ballot, LWV membership recruitment, the Missouri Plan for selection of judges, legislative priorities, and taxes.

Cande Iveson (LWV Columbia/BC) was introduced as a new off-board member who will be handling children's issues. Cande has over 20 years of experience working for and consulting with non-profit organizations. Her work in the public policy arena for the past 10 years includes policy research and development, strategic communications, government relations, and building grassroots advocacy.

Peg Prendergast (LWVMO Voters' Guides Chair) reported that over 26,000 Voters' Guides were printed and distributed across the state at candidate forums, the state's public libraries, schools, senior centers, various public gatherings, and to individuals. Thanks to Peg for directing this important project and driving across the state to deliver boxes of Voters' Guides to local Leagues.

Thanks to the Sedalia League for arranging the conference facilities at State Fair Community College, the continental breakfast, and the catered lunch. Thanks to Elaine Blodgett (LWVMO Conference Chair) for organizing such a stimulating and fun day!



Representing LWV KC/JCP: Margie Richcreek, Marti Wheaton, Chyanne Lockhart Carderella, Karly Landen Hakan, and Pauline Testerman.



Representing LWV Columbia/BC: Dick Parker, Lael Von Holt, Win Colwill, Elaine Blodgett, Cande Iveson, Joni O'Connor, Charlotte King, Linda Kaiser, Jo Sapp, and David Sapp.

Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity

By Lael Von Holt, LWVMO Health Director

On Oct. 3, 2008, the Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 1424, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 – now known as Public Law 110-343.

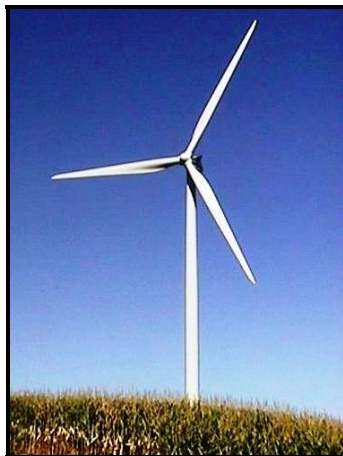
This law, a 451-page, \$700 billion financial package – sometimes referred to as the economic bailout – includes the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (Division C, Subtitle B) sponsored by Senators Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici.

Under this new law, U.S. insurance companies that provide any mental health coverage are now mandated to provide full parity in all aspects of health coverage, specifically mental illnesses and substance addictions. This mandate applies to group policies covering 51 or more employees and would affect an estimated 113 million Americans. Most plans would take effect by January 2010.

Mental health parity has finally prevailed, but the LWV would be remiss if it did not acknowledge the initial and essential bipartisan work of Senators Wellstone and Domenici for promoting mental health parity as a key element in overall health insurance coverage. Thanks to all LWV members for whatever action you may have taken towards moving this issue to a successful conclusion.

The Show-Me State Votes for Clean Energy

By Win Colwill, LWVMO Energy Director



Wind Turbine

League members and clean energy supporters throughout Missouri are still celebrating the resounding victory of Proposition C on Nov. 4. The Renewable Energy Initiative won by an impressive 66%, showing Missourians recognize the many benefits of clean energy.

The law requires Ameren, Empire and KCP&L to use increasing amounts of renewable energy to generate power for Missouri customers, reaching 15% by 2021. Renewable energy industries and producers can now count on a reliable market for their products.

Thanks to all who collected petition signatures, displayed yard signs, publicized LWVMO's position and voted "Yes," making Missouri the 27th state with a mandatory Renewable Electricity Standard.

Onward and Upward!

By Jo Sapp, LWVMO President

It's been an extraordinary election year. Around the state we've hosted forums and produced Voters' Guides. Some leagues, St. Louis, for example, have seen sharp increases in membership, partly because of the unprecedented interest in the history-making presidential contest. But the election is over, our leaders chosen. Now what?

This past year, when we weren't developing tools to help voters sort through options, the League in Missouri has made headway in other areas. With help from a strong coalition, the Secretary of State, and the LWVUS' Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, we fended off a voter photo ID requirement for the second time. Our interest in maintaining the non-partisan court plan, and Southwest Missouri's hard work on the initiative petition, led to expanding the plan to Greene County. With guidance from LWVMO energy chair Win Colwill, the Columbia-Boone County League and others supported a successful renewable energy standard initiative. Both Sedalia and SWMO leagues helped to educate visitors from the former Soviet Union about democracy by hosting visitors from Russia and Azerbaijan respectively. In Audrain County, league members have made childhood obesity a central issue, and are working with a coalition of community leaders to help combat the problem.

Our successes have been great but we can't rest on our laurels. Most of these issues will resurface when the legislature resumes its work. Soon we'll be asking you to interview your representatives and later to help educate them, and the public, on our priorities. It's time for us to set elections aside and work behind the scenes with our new leaders to effect the kind of change that makes a real difference in peoples' lives and brings new members into our fold. LWV truly is the place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

First Call to Convention!

By Debby Howard, LWVMO Convention Chair

Attention all local leagues. Please mark your calendars for May 2 & 3, 2009. Convention will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. Recommendations for program items, state board officers, and by-law revisions will be due by Feb 23, 2009. If your League has suggestions for speakers or topics to be covered at the Convention, please e-mail, or snail mail them to Debby Howard, Convention Chair, at jackhowe@swbell.net or 12424 Dawn Hill Dr., Maryland Hts., MO. 63043.

Forms for delegate registration, program, and by-law proposals are being sent to local League presidents. If you want to be a delegate to state convention, tell your local League president. Non delegates, called observers, are also warmly welcome and have the privilege of the floor.

State Program Planning *By Debby Howard, LWVMO Convention Chair*

ALL LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS:

Please participate in State Program planning with your local League. If you have a burning issue that the state does not have a position on, propose a new program. If you want to change or update current state positions or program items, please make those suggestions. State laws and policies affect our lives in many ways. Don't wait until the legislature is in session and ask, "Why doesn't the League take a stand on that issue?" Now is the time to make sure the League has a position or is studying to have one.

Local Leagues

Mexico/Audrain County LWV (reported by Jane Rankin)

The Mexico LWV was awarded the top literacy award at the Central Missouri "Salute to Literacy" ceremony held April 8, 2008, at the Audrain County Historical Complex. The Mexico Ledger Community Service Award was presented to the Mexico president, Linda Ahmann, by newspaper editor Joe May as a commendation for the club's years of voter service. The Mexico League, founded on Feb. 14, 1920, is proud to be among the oldest leagues in Missouri and in the United States.

Kansas City/JCP LWV



(reported by Peg Prendergast)

On Nov. 6, 2008, LWV-KC/JCP co-sponsored a portion of a week-long Oxfam America tour. Inspired by Oxfam's *Sisters on the Planet* initiative, the tour focused on the human face of climate change here and abroad with an emphasis on the ways the U.S. can help vulnerable communities survive the crisis. "Pollution, greenhouse gases, they don't respect boundaries," said Voré Gana Seck, the speaker from Senegal. "This is a global problem that needs global solutions." (Pictured left: Voré Gana Seck and Sharon Hanshaw.)

(reported by Karly Landen Hakan)

In September, newly-sworn Americans from Iraq to Russia heard the presiding judge encourage them to register to vote. Because the Kansas City Election Board, which usually does voter registration for new citizens, was swamped with other pre-election duties, KC/JCP Leaguers stepped into the breach. Alberta Daw, Judy Gemmill, Virginia Lawless, and Karlynn Landen Hakan attended four swearing-in ceremonies and registered about 200 new American citizens.

Sedalia/Pettis County LWV (reported by Mary Merritt and Charlotte King)

In cooperation with the Open World Program, we welcomed guests from Russia during the week of our General Election. The visit's theme was Accountable Governance, and there were opportunities for our guests to talk with city, county, and state officials. We also found time for some sightseeing in Kansas City and Jefferson City.

Right photo: LWV members Kathleen Boswell, Mary Merritt, and Jo Sapp with (from l. to r.) Andrey Goltsev, Aleksandr Danilov, Vadim Vitkov, Vladimir Andreyev, Valeriy Nefedov, and our translator, Marina.



Vadim and Valeriy look at a ceramic container at the Daum Museum at the State Fair Community College.



At our State Capitol: on the podium in the Senate Chamber with Senator Delbert Scott who serves the Sedalia area.



Vladimir and Andrey in after-dinner conversation with Todd Smith, MO's Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.



At dinner in Jefferson City: Vadim, Vladimir, Aleksandr, and Andrey.

Notes & Reminders

Nominations for LWVMO Board of Directors. State Convention is always a time of renewal for Leaguers in Missouri because it is when we elect or reelect all our state board officers and directors. Please look around and consider all the leaders in the room at your next local League gathering – these women are potential state board members! Take a minute to complete and return the state board nomination form (on page 7) for yourself or a fellow Leaguer, and one of us will follow up with a phone conversation. Thank you. (Nominating Committee: Margie Richcreek, Bev Reichert, Lucy Hale, Lael Von Holt, and Mary Merritt)

Loeb and Woods Awards. Every two years at State Convention, we present the Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award and the Harriett Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service. Now is the time to consider whom you would like to nominate for the 2009 honors. The criteria for the awards and the nomination forms are inserted in this issue of the *MissouriVoter*, and the deadline for nominations is Feb.15. If you have questions about either award, please contact the office at 314-961-6869 or lwvmo@yahoo.com. Thank you. (Rachel Farr Fitch, LWVMO Awards Chair)

Holiday Shopping Made Easy. Our 2009 Calendars make great gifts for friends and family. These user-friendly calendars have plenty of space to plan your year and note your appointments and activities. Contact the LWVMO office at 314-961-6869 or email lwvmo@yahoo.com and order your calendars today!

Save a tree! Get your *MissouriVoter* online, in color, in PDF format. Just contact the League office at lwvmo@yahoo.com.

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.

Calendar

Dec. 22	Hanukkah
Dec. 15-21	Priorities letter to legislators
Dec. 24-31	Office closed
Dec. 25	Christmas
Jan. 1	New Year's Day – office closed
Jan. 10	LWVMO board meeting in Columbia
Jan. 14	<i>MissouriVoter</i> copy deadline
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 24	LWVMO board meeting – alternate date
Jan. 29	<i>MissouriVoter</i> mailed
Feb. 14	LWV Birthday
Feb. 16	Presidents' 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, and 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

The Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award

1. The Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award is based on the League of Women Voters principles or positions at the national, state, or local levels.
2. The activity to be nominated must be initiated and completed at the local level.
3. In order to be eligible for the bi-annual award, the activity must have been completed within two years of being nominated for the award.
4. The award will be given at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention.
5. The winner will be determined by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Missouri or a committee named by the President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri and approved by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Missouri.
6. The award may be for either an action project or an education project.
7. The award may be given to an individual member of the League of Women Voters or to a League of Women Voters.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT
1989	LWV Cape Girardeau
1991	LWV Taney County
1993	LWV Springfield-Greene County
1995	Glenda Quinn, LWV Southeast MO
1997	Debora Biggs, LWV Springfield-Greene County
1999	LWV Mexico-Audrain County
2001	LWV Columbia-Boone County
2003	LWV Springfield-Greene County
2005	Win Colwill, LWV Columbia-Boone County
2007	Margie Richcreek, LWV Kansas City/JCP

(nomination form on reverse side)

The Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award

2009 Nomination Form

Name of Nominee (League or Individual):

If nominee is an individual:

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Local League:

Name and Address of person submitting nomination:

On a separate sheet of paper:

1. Give the league principle or position on which the project was based.
2. Give the time frame for the project. For the 2009 award, the project had to take place from May 2007 (the last LWVMO Convention) and be completed by January 2009.
3. Describe the project and the number of people involved in the project.
4. State the outcome of the project and its effects on the community.
5. Identify which resources were used.
6. Attach: samples of publications, brochures, video tapes, etc.; news clippings and information about other publicity.

Nominations must be received by close of business February 15, 2009.

Mail to: The Lenore Loeb Sterling Achievement Award
League of Women Voters of Missouri
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144

**The Harriett Woods Award
for
Exemplary Community Service**

1. The Harriett Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service, hereafter known as the Award, will be presented bi-annually at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention.
2. The recipient of the award will be an individual.
3. The recipient of the award will be a member of the League of Women Voters of Missouri at the time the Award was earned and received.
4. Anyone may submit a nomination.
5. Nominations must be in writing and submitted as announced on the nomination form.
6. The final decision of the recipient will be made by a committee appointed by the President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri.
7. The service or activity does not have to be a League of Women Voter's project, but must be compatible with League of Women Voters' mission and not in conflict with League of Women Voters' program positions.
8. The Criteria for the award will include, but will not be limited to:
 - a. An individual who goes beyond the normal scope of service;
 - b. A service or activity that affects a large number of individuals;
 - c. A service or activity that enhances a community (not necessarily a city).

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

YEAR	RECIPIENT
1995	Harriett Woods, LWV St. Louis
1997	Linda Ahmann, LWV Mexico-Audrain County
1999	Liz Schmidt, LWV Columbia-Boone County
2003	Dora Gianoulakis, LWV St. Louis
2005	Laura Worstell, LWV Mexico-Audrain County
2007	Carol Portman, LWV St. Louis

(nomination form on reverse side)

The Harriett Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service

2009 Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee's League: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Nominee's Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name and address of individual submitting the nomination: _____

On a separate sheet of paper:

1. Describe the nominee's project/service/activity (hereafter referred to as Project).
2. State why this Project was needed.
3. State who benefited and approximately how many people benefited.
4. State, if any, the Project's long range effects on the community.

Please attach documentation, photographs, copies of awards, copies of commendations, etc.

Nominations must be received by close of business February 15, 2009.

Mail to: The Harriett Woods Award Nomination
League of Women Voters of Missouri
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144