



Missouri Voter

Volume 70, Issue 5

The League of Women Voters

September/October 2009

Fall Conference 2009

*By Charlotte King, LWVMO Director & Missouri Voter Editor
& Lois Detrick, LWVMO President*

Our annual Fall Conference is coming soon – Saturday, November 14! The board has planned a busy, informative, and, we hope, fun day for all League members.

* Janis McMillen, Ph.D., our LWVUS Board Liaison, will speak on *Health Care Reform – Dead, Surviving, or Healthy?* As chair of the League’s Health Education Project, Janis brings her extensive experience in the fields of health, education, and justice.

* Cheryl Barnes and Donna Hoch, from the KC/JCP LWV and co-chairs of our Early Voting Study, have done extensive research on Early Voting – nationally, regionally, and within Missouri. They will provide more information to help us reach a consensus.

* Elaine Blodgett, LWVMO coordinator for the Membership Recruitment Initiative, will speak on *Where We Are and What’s Next?* In addition to her devoted work on MRI, Elaine is a past state president and the current president of Columbia/BC LWV.

* Cande Iveson, LWVMO Director, will present *CapWiz – An Explanation and Demonstration*. Cande has over 10 years of experience in legislative advocacy – working with nonprofit organizations to build their advocacy efforts through grassroots organizing, coalition building, and governmental relations. This work has encompassed the implementation of electronic advocacy networks, including CapWiz.

* Mary Merritt will tell us about *Our 90th Birthday Celebration – The Exciting Plans!* Our big anniversary party will be Saturday, April 24, 2010 (mark your calendar now!). Mary, a long-time League member (LWVMO director, past state treasurer and president, current Sedalia/PC LWV president) will share the many activities in the works to make our 90th Celebration memorable.

* In addition we will have updates from local League presidents and state committee chairs on their activities.

One of the requests made for Fall Conference is to have more time to talk with other members and share what all the Leagues are doing. So, extra time has been allotted for questions and comments during the meeting itself, as well as some “milling time.”

An important way to communicate is a display. There will be tables about the upcoming U.S. Census, the Early Voting Study, a proposed peace study, and CapWiz. All that is needed is a display of what YOUR League is doing. Please share and give others ideas for things they might want to do.

We’ll be meeting at State Fair Community College, 3201 W. 16th St., in Sedalia, but this year we will be in the new Health and Applied Sciences building (just east of Yeater where we’ve met in previous years). There is a large sign over the entry and plenty of parking. We’ll put out the League signs and set up the display tables. All we need is you!

The Sedalia/PC League is hosting the day. If you need a display table, home hospitality, or motel arrangements, please contact Mary. The LWVMO Board will meet on Friday before the Conference, so if you come on Friday, please plan to have supper with us. For more information or assistance, please contact Mary at m.merritt@charter.net or call 660-826-2793.

The agenda and registration form are on page 7. We need to hear from you by Tuesday, November 10, to make sure there is lunch for everybody. See you at Fall Conference!



LWV 90th Celebration

By Mary Merritt, 90th Celebration Chair

Since our founding in St. Louis in 1919, the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has encouraged informed and active participation in government, worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influenced public policy through education and advocacy. That is part of our mission statement, a mission that has continued for 90 years and will continue for 90+ more! To celebrate our past, honor the women who have worked tirelessly for LWV, and look forward to the work ahead of us, we will have a luncheon party in St. Louis on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

The logo selected by LWVUS to commemorate our 90th year was designed by Myrna Ragar of Sedalia. You have seen Myrna's work many times before. She designed and made our tablecloths and podium banners, and she designed our popular suffragist, flapper and capitol woman pins. We are fortunate that Myrna continues to share her artistic talents with the League. To learn about Myrna's business, Ragar Banners by Design, visit her website at www.ragar-banners.com.

The logo is now on our *Missouri Voter* masthead, as well as on the mugs Missouri Leagues have received and are selling. Other items with our 90th logo will be available soon.

The first of our 90th Celebration quilts is at the quilters, and we expect to have it finished by Fall Conference. We will be relying heavily on local League members to sell drawing tickets for the quilts. Plan now to attend Fall Conference to learn more about the exciting plans for our exciting year!



County Clerks in Missouri Split on No-Excuse Early / Absentee Voting

From the Early Voting Study Committee

In a survey on Absentee and Early Voting, county clerks from across Missouri told the LWVMO Committee working on the consensus study that they have a split opinion of the viability of both early and no-excuse absentee voting.

Twenty-two counties responded to the electronic survey and another three counties were surveyed in person by their league members. Clerks showed a clear preference for no-excuse absentee voting over early voting, saying that the high costs for implementation of early voting are the prohibiting factor. This was, by far, the greatest concern among all clerks.

Also cited as limitations were facilities, staffing, including judges, and the inability for citizens to act on late-breaking information. There was some concern that no-excuse absentee voting would provide the opportunity for voter fraud or influence.

Clerks that supported early and no-excuse absentee voting, more than half of the survey respondents, said it gives citizens greater access to voting and the electoral process and would increase participation, and adds convenience for the voters.

When asked why either early voting or no-excuse absentee voting has not been passed previously in Missouri despite recommendations by the last two Secretaries of State, many clerks said there is no way to design a "one-size-fits-all" package that is good for the state. Others said bipartisanship held up movement. One warning on the wind – any bill coming forward now is certain to be tagged with the photo ID legislation, said one county clerk.

The complete survey results are part of the Leaders Information Packet coming to your Leagues for unit meetings on Early and No-Excuse Absentee Voting this year.

Membership

Us and THEM: MRI suggestion?

By Elaine Blodgett, LWVMO MRI Chair

One of the simple things your League can do is to make sure your members and citizens out there know about our website (www.lwvmissouri.org) and that your League's information is on it. Send meeting notices to local papers or pay for small ads, if necessary. Use the websites of popular, local radio and TV stations and type in the meeting announcements on their sites.

We can't interest them if they don't know about us. Let others know your local LWV exists and is active!

My 50-Year Goal

By Anna Mennerick, LWVMO Executive Director

I have never been very good at guessing ages. I am usually able to guess accurately within a year or two of whatever age my children are right now, but for peers and those older than me I am at a loss. Remembering my own age is often a challenge. Even my own mother continues, in my mind, to be 37 years old even though my recent 40th birthday makes this hard to justify mathematically.

Since joining the League of Women Voters, I have met a number of remarkable people all of whom act a lot younger than their ages. In the League of Women Voters, it seems that you don't even really count as "old" until you reach your 90th birthday at which point we are all just tickled pink.

This is good news for me because I am a recent member. I will need the stimulation and companionship of vibrant Leaguers to help me reach my goal of being a 50-year member which requires my living to at least 89. With purpose, friendship, learning, fun, challenges, and growth available, I can't think of a better and potentially memorable place to spend the next 49 years.

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CapWiz 101

By Cande Iveson, LWVMO Director

Want to help ALL Missouri voters? Use CapWiz!

Most of you are aware of the League's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project (PAVP). This project aims to expand state-based advocacy efforts to prevent changes in election laws, like voter ID, which would disenfranchise eligible voters.

One of the tools included with the PAVP project is an electronic advocacy tool called CapWiz. The basic function of the CapWiz system is to allow LWVMO to

alert members when there is an urgent reason to take action. CapWiz allows you to make quick contact with your elected officials.

Last year we used this tool to send action requests in time for several key committee hearings in Jefferson City. This year, we want to use CapWiz to expand our efforts. To succeed, we need your help!

To make the most of this powerful advocacy tool, we need a large pool of subscribers. If you don't get the message to take action, neither will your elected officials. Please take a few minutes to subscribe so that we can make the most of this opportunity. Just follow the easy steps below:

1. Go to the state website at: www.lwvmissouri.org
2. Click on the second item "LWVMO Action Center"
3. Click on the third item "Click here for current action items"
4. Click on "Join Our Action Network"
5. You'll then be asked to enter contact information; just follow the on-screen instructions.

At Fall Conference, we'll also be talking about how CapWiz can benefit local Leagues. Stay tuned!

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There is No "Off Year"

By Lois Detrick, LWVMO President

Where did the idea get started that in "off years," when a U. S. president is not being elected, the League doesn't have "that much to do"? That is certainly not the case this year! There is a great deal to do, and it is urgent that we keep working.

Immediate concerns:

- The Health Care Bill. *Every League must speak out clearly to clarify what is fact and what is fiction. LWVUS has lots of information on their website to help you do this. I hope many of you attended Senator McCaskill's Town Hall Meetings while she has been home.*
- Environmental Bills. *We need to contact our senators about the environmental bills currently being heard in committees. We can do more to influence the content of the bills now than at any other time. Once the bill is written and out of committee, it is much more difficult to change. If you need help knowing what to write, LWVUS has the information.*
- The 2010 Census. *I hope some of you took part in the conference call LWVUS had Sept. 10th when speakers from the National Census Bureau provided an overview of Census efforts and League-specific information on how to get*

involved. If you missed this, you can contact Sergio Espana (SEspana@lwyv.org). One of the League's major concerns is that voters have adequate representation. However, unless the census is accurate – how many people there are to be represented in a given state – then the representation may be far off from what the population actually is. An accurate count also affects funding for the state and many other things.

For more information on these issues, check the LWVUS website: www.lwyv.org

We are celebrating 90 years of the League's existence and the active involvement of those who have gone before us. We must not risk dropping the ball now. Get involved! Keep making democracy work!

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Recycle Your Environment

By Sue Brockett, LWVMO Director & Environment Chair

(Sue Brockett, LWV SEMO President, was appointed to the LWVMO Board at the Sept. 11th meeting. Sue's portfolio is the broad topic of Environment. We welcome her interest and expertise as she works with League members on environmental issues affecting Missouri.)



League holds positions on solid and hazardous waste disposal, preserving clean water and clean air, as well as land management. Of these Win Colwill, in concentrating on energy matters, will largely address clean air concerns. My thought is to focus on recycling and reuse as a means of reducing solid waste and helping maintain clean water.

Recycling of materials that we use daily has created a new industry and helped divert material from solid-waste landfills. In Missouri, the recycling industry employs about 28,000 workers and produces sales of \$5 billion. Missourians generate about 6 pounds of waste every day which is above the national average of 4.5 pounds per day. Of this, about 20% is recaptured as recycled or reused material. We are off to a good start, but there is much more we can do.

Water is a precious resource that has been the subject of controversy since man began to farm. As our population

grows, more stress is put on water reserves. In addition, Missouri is a state of many rivers that need constant protection to maintain and improve the many benefits they bring to humans and other species.

In the months ahead, I will be talking to local Leagues to discover what positions and projects they are undertaking to support solid-waste reduction and improve water resources, and I'll be working with Win to shape our action plans in these areas.



Time For Action on Climate Change

By Win Colwill, LWVMO Energy Director

Ominous global climate-change warnings continue to mount: polar ice is melting faster than climate models projected just two years ago – 1999 to 2008 was the warmest decade in the Arctic in the last 2000 years – if current pollution trends continue, rising seas, increasing droughts, and floods will worsen hunger, poverty, and social tensions in poorer nations, undermining global stability. “The national security threats posed by climate change are real,” the State Department's special envoy for climate change told a congressional committee Sept. 10th. Projections show that Missourians, too, would experience more scorching summer days, life-threatening heat waves, deteriorating air quality, and heavier, more frequent rainstorms.

As the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases per capita, the U.S. should enact a strong climate bill prior to the December international climate change meeting in Copenhagen. Last June the House passed comprehensive climate/energy legislation that spurs renewable energy and energy efficiency, puts a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions for large sources while allowing generous offsets, and minimizes consumer impacts. (See ACES Act cost and summaries at: www.pewclimate.org)

The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee has passed a climate bill without essential cap-and-trade provisions. This is the critical time to urge Senators McCaskill and Bond to support a strong climate change bill that includes science-based reduction targets. The LWVUS makes it easy to send a message - www.lwyv.org. Call our Senators' local and national* offices. Together we can make a difference – please act today.

* Senator Bond - 202-224-5721; Senator McCaskill - 202-224-6154

[Local Leagues](#)

Columbia/BC LWV (from Linda Kaiser, Civil Liberties Committee Co-Chair)

The LWV of Columbia/Boone County had its third annual Constitution Day celebration. As has become tradition, students from local high schools read the Bill of Rights and its preamble. Each student was given a letter of appreciation, a folded constitution, and a copy of the State of Missouri Constitution (published by the Secretary of State's office). The main focus of the evening, however, was a panel discussion, "Is There a Right to Privacy," with MU Law professor Christina E. Wells and History professor Mark M. Carroll, moderated by MU Law professor March Dragich.

KC/JCP LWV (from Peg Prendergast, President)

KC/JCP members celebrate Women's Equality Day with like-minded organizations. Thanks to Pauline Testerman, Pauli Kendrick, Jill Cornett, Chyanne Lockhart and Peg Prendergast who helped work our LWV table and to Donna Hoch and Cheryl Barnes for their planning activities. Thanks Jill for the great job pulling together the Quilt display.



SEMO LWV (from Sue Brockett, President)

Our League had a busy month. We hosted a tea for new members, manned a booth at the picnic of returning Southeast Missouri State students, welcomed LWVMO President Lois Detrick to a membership meeting, cleaned our Adopted Street, and held a program on Health Care. The program was a panel discussion featuring speakers from Cape County Health, SEMO Agency on Aging, and the Cape Mental Health Board. The program was well received and led to lively discussion.



[At the Welcome Back Picnic, SEMO members Mary Ellen Sharp and Jeanice Scott gave students the opportunity to register to vote.](#)

[News In Brief](#)

Memories. We need your memories of League people and events going back as far as you can remember or as far as you have records. Joan Mills and Peg Prendergast, LWVMO Directors and members of the KC/JCP LWV, are putting together a LWV Memory Book for our 90th Celebration. If you have special memories, photos, or news clipping you would like to share, please send them to the LWVMO office.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The American Mensa Hall of Fame recently honored Elizabeth Cady Stanton for demonstrating her genius through remarkable vision and accomplishments. Born Nov. 12, 1818, Stanton, a writer and reformer, was the leading feminist philosopher of the first generation of women's rights activists. In addition to her long contribution to the women's suffrage movement, Stanton was active and effective in winning property rights for married women, equal guardianship of children, and helped liberalize divorce laws so women could leave abusive or broken marriages. Stanton died Oct. 26, 1902, nearly 20 years before the U.S. granted women the right to vote. (*Thanks to Maryann Crosby, SWMO LWV, for this information.*)

Emailed Missouri Voters. We've been emailing the *Missouri Voter* for the past year, and the color and convenience are so popular that we plan to continue. If you are receiving your newsletter by snail mail and would prefer something faster, just email the office, and they will do the rest.

At Our Store. Among the items available at the LWVMO store are the Missouri Voters' Handbook, the 2010 Calendars, pins and note cards, create a card, and 90th celebration mugs. We accept credit cards and PayPal. Place your order on our website or contact the LWVMO office.

Contact Your LWVMO.

LWVMO
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144
Phone: 314-961-6869 Fax: 314-961-8389
Email: league@lwvmissouri.org Website: www.lwvmissouri.org

[Calendar](#)

Oct. 10	Early Voting Study Panel in KC
Nov. 3	LWVMO President in LWV office Election Day
Nov. 13	LWVMO Board – Sedalia
Nov. 14	Fall Conference – Sedalia
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving (office closed)
Dec. 1	LWVMO President in LWV office
Dec.24-	
Jan. 4	Christmas Holidays (office closed)
Feb. 26	Early Voting Study – consensus due
Apr. 24	LWV 90 th 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 \$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.

LWVMO Fall Conference

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, November 14, 2009
Health and Applied Sciences Building, State Fair Community College
3201 W. 16th St., Sedalia, MO

AGENDA

- 8:30 – 9:30 Registration, table set-up, greet your fellow Leaguers
- 9:30 – 9:45 Welcome and Announcements, Lois Detrick, LWVMO President
- 9:45 – 10:40 *Health Care Reform – Dead, Surviving, or Healthy?* – Janis McMillen, LWVUS Liaison
- 10:40 – 10:55 Break
- 10:55 – 11:15 Early Voting Study – Cheryl Barnes and Donna Hoch, co-chairs
- 11:15 – 12:00 Reports from local League Presidents and State Directors
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 MRI – *Where We Are and What’s Next?* – Elaine Blodgett, State Coordinator
- 2:00 – 2:30 CapWiz – Explanation & Demonstration – Cande Iveson, LWVMO Director
- 2:30 – 3:00 *Our 90th Birthday Celebration – The Exciting Plans!* – Mary Merritt, chair

Please contact Mary at www.m.merritt@charter.net or 660-826-2793 if:
you would like to come on Friday and need information about home hospitality or motels, join the board for supper on Friday evening, and/or need a table for Saturday’s display.

Registration must be received no later than Tuesday, November 10.

See you in Sedalia!

Fall Conference 2009 – Registration

LWV of _____

Person(s) attending:

Cost: \$10 per person. Number attending _____ @ \$10/each = \$ _____

Mail registration to: LWVMO Fall Conference, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

Registration must be received no later than Tuesday, November 10.