



Missouri Voter

Volume 72, Issue 2

The League of Women Voters

March/April 2011

2nd Call to State Convention

By Margie Richcreek, State Convention Committee Chair

Missouri Leaguers will gather in Independence on May 21 & 22. Your local League should be making decisions about its voting delegates AND its observers. In a grassroots organization such as LWV, everyone has the right to be heard. Of course, only registered delegates will have both a voice and vote – BUT all registered observers will have a voice! Do plan to participate!

The Convention Committee has been working since Fall Conference in November 2010, and we are confident you will find this to be another educational, entertaining, and stimulating state convention! Picture yourself at the luxurious Hilton Garden Inn –

- exchanging ideas with other Leaguers during reports in business sessions as well as during breaks, meals, tours, and shopping trips (yes! Read on.)
- hearing our luncheon keynote speaker: Diana Carlin, Professor of Communication at the University of Kansas*
- learning about *Caring for the Mentally Ill in Missouri* from Jennifer Boyden, Interim Executive Director, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) in Kansas City
- learning about the Status of Reapportionment in Missouri from Linda McDaniel, LWV St. Louis, LWVMO Board member, former LWVUS Board member
- being entertained during our banquet by The Treblemakers – a lively group from the KC Women's Chorus, known to cause lots of laughter
- congratulating the honored recipients of the Lenore Loeb and Harriet Woods Awards
- voting on state program items, budget, and board for 2011-2013
- perusing the *Women's Wall of Achievement* created by Jane McClain, KC/JCP LWV
- finding some new/used books by your favorite author at the LWVMO Book Sale and checking your bids on items at the LWVMO Silent Auction (fun, easy ways to raise funds to cover additional expenses)*
- touring *Behind the Scenes in the Archives* at the Truman Library preceding your tour of that museum for you early arrivals on Friday, May 20
- eating delicious BBQ at Kansas City's famous Gates Restaurant near the Plaza on May 20
- listening to jazz at a well-known Kansas City venue on May 20
- being interviewed for the LWVMO Oral History Project – launching May 20 with appointments for taping available between business sessions until late Sunday morning*
- and last, but not least: possibly shopping at Independence Center and the plethora of shops within walking distance of our convention site

*Look for more detailed articles about these topics in this *Missouri Voter*. Soon, everyone who registers will receive Convention Workbook #1 with additional information.

Excited? We are, and we hope every Leaguer in Missouri will plan to participate as a delegate OR an observer! **All convention registration forms are due by May 13th**. They were included in the January/February issue of our *Missouri Voter* – print yours out or get one from your League president, and send it in today!

Remember, you need to make your own hotel reservation and you won't want to miss out on League's group rate so do it by April 29th – find all information on registration forms.

Your State Convention Committee,

Marcia Coccozza (Sedalia), Barb Davis (Mexico), Kathleen Farrell and Mary Long (St. Louis), Mary Martin (Springfield), Joan Mills (KC/JCP), Jerry Osborne (Moberly), Sue Scholl (KC/JCP), Lael Von Holt (Columbia), and Margie Richcreek (KC/JCP), Chair

Convention Keynote Speaker

By Kathleen Farrell, LWV St. Louis and Convention Committee Member

Diana Carlin, a professor of communication at the University of Kansas since 1987, will speak on *Women in Politics: How far have they come and where do they still have to go?*

Dr. Carlin has studied political communication, especially political debates, speech writing, and women in politics. She developed a national project on presidential debates, DebateWatch, which began in 1996, and has been a part of the Commission on Presidential Debates voter education programs in every election cycle since. She served on the advisory board of the Commission for 13 years and was selected by the U.S. State Department and several nongovernmental organizations to lecture or serve as an advisor on debate and voter education projects in Russia, Moldova, Benin, Belarus, and Georgia.

She has worked with the Missouri League of Women Voters on a number of voter education projects. On July 1st, she will start her new position as Associate Vice President for Graduate Education at Saint Louis University. The Saint Louis League will be recruiting her as a new member.

Convention Thoughts – Turning Ideas Into Action

*By Elaine Blodgett, MRI Chair,
and Marcia Mullins, LWVUS Membership*

You're at convention. Great information is being offered in workshops and seminars – information that will help your League succeed. Your mind is open. You're taking notes – great ideas that you know you can use and you know will benefit your League.

But you don't fulfill them when you get home. Why? They seemed like great ideas at the time.

How do you capture information and ideas and turn them into your plan of action?

The minute the workshop or speech is over find a quiet space for 15-30 minutes. Use your laptop or a clean sheet of paper and take out your notes. Look at every note you took, and spend a moment expanding the thought. How will you apply that idea? In other words, take the note and make it yours. Then determine when the action will be implemented.

We spend time and money to get new and important ideas and information. Take the time to transfer the notes, thoughts, and ideas into actions. This will ensure a full return on your time investment, your dollar investment, and your human capital investment.

Convention Fundraiser – HELP!

By Janie Riley, Fundraiser Co-chair

To all local Leagues!!!!

At State Convention, we're planning a fundraiser for the State League coffer. We need your donations for the book sale/item sale table (hopefully tables!). We need LOTS of items and books. So search out those books you've read and want to get rid of and gather those items you think would sell that you don't want or need anymore. We're also planning a silent auction for special items. ALL proceeds will be for the State League.

The more you donate the more we can sell. And don't forget your checkbook because we don't want anything left over! If you won't be attending Convention, but would like to make a donation, please contact your League president. Once you have an idea what your League will be bringing please let us know. You can contact Mary Merritt (M.merritt@charter.net) or me (jriley@artsappliance.com).

Thanks in advance for your wonderful generosity!

Convention – Reserve Your Space For The Launch!

*By Barbara Davis, LWV Mexico/AC and Convention
Committee Member*

You don't need to get a physical, catch your meals in mid-air, or get bruised by a bumpy landing. You won't get a view from space. Your feet will never leave the ground. But even without those adventures, you have the opportunity to participate in something very exciting!

The **Oral History Project of The League of Women Voters of Missouri** will be **launched** at the **60th State Convention, May 21-22**. Oral history, as it will be done in this project, is the telling of stories or information which will be recorded on audio and/or video tape. Several hours have been put in the Saturday and Sunday schedules for interviews, and more could be arranged, on those days or Friday evening. Sign-up sheets will be available at registration and at other times during the convention. Times will be available on a first-come, first-served basis; however, delegates will have priority for times. It's estimated that interviews will last about 15 minutes.

Ideas to help launch your thinking about what you might share for the Oral History Project (with thanks to the League of Women Voters of Oregon):

- Why did you initially join the League?
- What events stand out in your mind as you recall your years in the League?
- How has the League changed over the years that you have been a member?
- What have you learned from your experiences in the League?
- How has League affected your personal life?

All members are encouraged to participate in an interview, which I will conduct. For more information, please call me at 573-473-6775.

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Missouri Sunshine Coalition

By Jo Sapp, LWVMO Director

From its inception late last fall, LWVMO has joined with the Missouri Press Association, the Missouri Broadcasters Associations and the Missouri Sunshine Coalition, in supporting Open Missouri, a project created by David Herzog, a faculty fellow at the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism. The one-year pilot project is designed to promote government transparency by informing journalists, information professionals, citizens and businesses about offline data held by state agencies.

On March 17, eighty people, including LWV members, journalists, librarians, administrators, and

interested citizens gathered at the Reynolds Journalism Institute on the UMC campus to celebrate Sunshine Week with the launch of the keystone of the project, a website that helps make Missouri government data more accessible. The project has already identified over 135 databases that exist nowhere else on the internet, and is actively seeking citizen and partner help in locating others. The next phase will create an automatic e-mail Sunshine request addressed to the appropriate agency. OpenMissouri.org is free and available to the general public. Check it out.

The Sunshine Week observance also featured speakers who offered tips on locating and accessing a wide variety of information on the web, and in an op ed piece following the event, Tom Warhover, Columbia Missourian Executive Editor for Innovation, listed some resources mentioned at the conference.

USAspending.gov <<http://usaspending.gov>> is a searchable website that depends on information provided by federal agencies to track government spending. Because the site is incomplete and at times inaccurate, Sunlight built its own website, Clear-spending, <http://sunlightfoundation.com/clearspending/> to document the errors.

Legislation

By Nancy Copenhaver, LWVMO Legislative Director

A small, but energetic, group attended Legislative Day on March 15. Members saw several committee hearings in progress, watched the House and Senate debate from the upper galleries, and visited with their local legislators (and sometimes legislators from other districts) about the issues important to League. Information on several priority issues was available to help Leaguers express their concerns on required photo ID for voting, tax issues such as the mega sales tax, streamlined sales tax, and health care issues.

Requiring a state-issued photo ID to vote has received final approval in the Senate and moved to the House where they added early voting to the bill. It may soon be debated on the House floor and if the early voting piece remains, it will have to return to the Senate. Many of the county clerks are opposed to the early voting piece which may stall it, with the cost another possible obstacle. Part of this initiative to squelch voters requires a vote of the people on a constitutional amendment, and part is implementing legislation. The governor does not have an option to veto a proposed constitutional amendment but could veto the implementing legislation.

A major concern for League is the number of ballot issues which have been certified for circulation by the Secretary of State's office, especially those seeking to change the tax structure and the constitution. Please

sign up for the Legislative Bulletin or be sure your president has your e-mail on the distribution list for quick updates as they become necessary this spring. If you start to see signature gatherers in your community, please notify League and scrutinize the issues closely — a “decline to sign” is the best option if you are unsure of the issue; often misleading information is given by the uninformed petition circulator.

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Calendar

- April 22 LWVMO office closed
Earth Day
- May Mental Health Month
- May 3 LWVMO President in LWV office
- May 11 Last day to register for June 7 elections
- May 20 LWVMO Board meeting
- May 21-22 State Convention in Independence/KC
- June 7 Election Day
- July 4 Independence Day (office closed)

Contact Your LWVMO

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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 can call them 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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