



# Missouri Voter

Volume 72, Issue 5

League of Women Voters of Missouri

September, October 2011

## Fall Conference in Sedalia on November 5

The Annual LWV Fall Conference is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> at State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo. from 9 to 3 pm.

Welcome to a FULL day of memorable experiences, facts, figures, fun and good humor (thrown in-no charge).

Everyone attending will become very well informed and equipped to deal knowledgeably with the multitude of issues facing the League of Women Voters in the coming months and year.

Sessions are scheduled to include Privatization, Development, Statewide Petitions, Redistricting, Vote 411.org, the State and National Constitution Revision and the Clean Air Promise plus there will be four breakout sessions on Salsa, CARRIE, Education and Legislative Priorities. You will be astounded at the information you will carry home to use/act on this year.

You may want to come in Friday and take in **Hello Dolly** with the local theater group, the Railroad Museum at the Depot or the Daum Art Museum at the college. Let Mary know if you need housing by calling her at 660-826-2793 or email [m.merritt@charter.net](mailto:m.merritt@charter.net).

Registration including lunch is \$15 and should be sent to Mary Merritt 1812 S. Grand Sedalia, Mo. 65301 by **October 28<sup>th</sup>**. She must have the numbers for lunch in by then or you go out or go hungry!

Here are some of the additional items scheduled:

**Silent Auction-** Do bring items and your checkbook. There will also be League pins, coasters etc. available.

**Calendars-** Orders will be brought from St. Louis if you want to save shipping costs. Get them in and let them know.

Everyone, not just Board members, is welcome

at Mary's Friday evening for supper, but you do need to tell her that you're attending.

## Human Trafficking Examined Locally in Columbia/Boone Co.

The LWV-Columbia-Boone is able to use local city TV for local programming and the distribution of documentaries and the like. We try to present current local issues and other, lesser known issues.

One opportunity just came up this month and it pertained to an issue we haven't studied--HUMAN TRAFFICKING. Our three panelists helped us to understand that it exists everywhere, involves men, women, and children. What really helped us was a power-point on the issue from the LWV-Houston TX.

They just completed a study in the League this year. Besides interviewing local experts, we were able to use some of their power-point. You can look at the League site and get educated yourself.

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# President's Column

by Lois Detrick, Springfield MO

The work of the League has been so apparent to me, but recently the education aspect of it took on a new meaning.

I was reading Dark Star Safari by Paul Theroux, a recounting of the author's journey from Cairo to Cape Town. He was anxious to revisit Malawi where he spent two years teaching school as a Peace Corps volunteer. He was dismayed at finding the school a shambles. One of the present-day teachers was bemoaning the fact that, once the foreign aid was no longer available, the Malawi government did nothing to assist in funding to make education available.

Theroux conjectures that some governments in Africa depended on underdevelopment to survive, as they "needed an uneducated and passive population to keep themselves in office for decades. A great education system in an open society would produce rivals, competitors, and an effective opposition to people who wanted only to cling to power."

Without that education, the society has failed to form and thrive beyond subsistence living. Most people who have managed to get educated in other countries emigrate to those countries where jobs are available that use their skills and knowledge.

I can think of no other descriptor that underscores the necessity of an educated populace. It shines a new light on the importance of our Education study as well as the ongoing need to educate voters about the issues currently facing our communities, state and nation.

Let us not ever lose sight of this important facet of the League. While competition and opposition may be uncomfortable at times, nevertheless it is vitally important to a robust country.

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## Recruiting of Members is On-going Effort for State League Members

Recruiting members is what CARRIE is all about. HOWEVER, that involves more than it first appears. Besides always inviting and asking friends to join, it's what you do in your community.

Presenting programs, discussions and debates on all kinds of community issues is what citizens need to hear right now. Always being available to help educate new voters on how to actually go through the process has really become a high priority.

Local newspapers, TV and radio will help you in determining what your communities' needs are, AND get on TV, radio, and in the newspapers.

There are eight leagues plus state across Missouri and we are all working to keep elections free, fair and open to all citizens. Letting our voters know what their rights are, what voting is and other counties informed of ballot issues is our goal.

LET'S BE ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

GO FOR IT!!

## *Numerous Activities Underway in Mexico/Audrain Co.*

We were pleased to have the two newest members of the Mexico School Board attend our open meeting to study the role of the government in education. They not only entered in the discussions they asked questions and wanted our opinions.

Our new voter registration is almost completed. We were very happy to have 38 new registrants at the Advanced Technical Center here in Mexico. Several others took their registration card with them to mail independently as they were from other counties.

Our new project is to conduct voter procedure instructions at WIC clinics in Laddonia and Vandalia. We were approached by the Audrain Public Health Unit to conduct these training sessions. Our County Clerk agreed to coach us. New ground and new challenges for us.

Our STD Awareness project is taking off. Presently the 4-H clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts and ministers are being contacted for presentations and material on the situation here. Later the civic organizations, social groups, residential care facilities and the Veteran's home will be included.

# Wow! What A Year, And We Have Just Begun!!

by Janie Riley, LWV Treasurer

There has been a great response from League members to BRING BACK THE DAY!

A big thank you to all who have contributed to this effort, along with a little nudge to those who want to contribute but have misplaced their letter, that a little more is needed.

So please send your BRING BACK THE DAY! contribution to the state office in St. Louis, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144-2724. Make your checks payable to LWVMO or LWVMO/EF. Your contribution is tax deductible if you make your check payable to LWVMO/EF.

The Development Committee is also making plans for a sustaining campaign for our state League. We ask that all local Leagues look to their communities for names of companies, foundations or individuals who can be contacted for this campaign. Please send this information to Development Chair Debby Howard or to the state office.

And remember, a portion of any funds received from your local League's area contacts will be returned to the local League. Thanks to those who have already sent this information and we look forward to hearing from others.

## Clean Air Stories Sought By State LWV Office

Do you, or someone you know, have a story to tell about how air quality impacts your quality of life?

The League of Women Voters can use it to promote the Clean Air Promise. In order to best communicate to the public that clean air affects the lives of people, we need your personal stories. We want to re-frame the debate to emphasize that people lose when pollution is present.

Please mail or email your story to the League office, [league@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:league@lwvmissouri.org) or LWV, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, Saint Louis, Missouri, 63144. For more information or to make the Clean Air Promise visit [www.peoplenotpolluters.org](http://www.peoplenotpolluters.org)

# Is Skype on Your Digital Horizon?

Ever thought about trying Skype? All you need is internet access and a computer with a microphone.

If you would like personal instructions or need someone to call to test things after you set it up, please let me know. The Joint Office Skype address is [lwv.mo.stl.joint.office](mailto:lwv.mo.stl.joint.office). The program and the computer to computer calls are free. Add a web camera and you can include face to face communication. You can even make inexpensive calls to regular phone numbers.

Free conference calls would be a great option once your whole committee is using Skype. Many possibilities could reward your effort in learning to use this program. Call or email for more information, 314/961-6869 or [MennerickA@lwvmissouri.org](mailto:MennerickA@lwvmissouri.org)

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## An interesting statement to ponder:

"An execution is not simply death. It is just as different from the privation of life as a concentration camp is from prison. It adds to death a rule, a public premeditation known to the future victim, an organization which is itself a source of moral sufferings more terrible than death. Capital punishment is the most premeditated of murders, to which no criminal's deed, however calculated can be compared. For there to be an equivalency, the death penalty would have to punish a criminal who had warned his victim of the date at which he would inflict a horrible death on him and who, from that moment onward, had confined him at his mercy for months. Such a monster is not encountered in private life."

Albert Camus---"Reflections on the Guillotine, Resistance, Rebellion & Death" (1956).

The League of Women Voters supports the abolition of the death penalty. This position was adopted at the 2006 national League Convention.

Sydell Shayer, LWVMO Death Penalty Chair



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