

Voter March-April 2013

The League of Women Voters Kansas City/ Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties

Join us for our next meeting
Saturday, March 16; 2013 -- 10:00 – 11:30AM
Community Christian Church;
4601 Main St; Kansas City - Social time 9:30

Secretary of State Jason Kander Campaign Finance Reform.

Beverlee J. Roper, newly elected Platte County Commissioner of District 1 will speak of her experiences of campaign finance during her recent campaign.

Margie Richcreek and Pauli Kendrick have planned this informative program for us. Don't miss it. Bring your friends.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER'S STATE CONVENTION

May 4 & 5, 2013

***Jefferson City, Missouri ***

Plan now to attend. Make new friends. Get involved.

LWV KC/J/C/P Officers

President: Peg Prendergast
Vice President: Joan Mills
Secretary: Pauline Testerman
Treasurer: Elaine Lenz

Directors

Pauli Kendrick	Sue Scholl
Charles Steele	Cheryl Barnes
Donna Ryan	Linda Vogel-Smith
Donna Hoch	Margie Richcreek

Peg's Pen – Thanks to my league family for all of your support in the past month with the sudden death of my brother, Mike. Your words of encouragement, prayers and monetary donations were most appreciative. I ask for your continued prayers as we struggle to make it through each day.

Our January Program Planning meeting was well attended and we had a great discussion. We provided input to LWV MO on program ideas which may be brought to the Convention as recommendations. That it's my clue to announce Second CALL to LWV MO State Convention, which will be May 4-5, 2013; details in MO VOTER. If anyone is interested in being a delegate at the Convention and could attend the dates listed, please let one of your Officers or Board members know.

Our next general meeting is March 16, 2013 and our program topic is Campaign Finance. Check out details of this meeting elsewhere in this Voter. Thanks to Margie and Pauli for arranging for our special guests. Please spread the word and let's have a great turnout.

Our general meeting, April 20 will also prove to be informative as our guest speaker will be Sister Berta Sailors, co-founder of Operation Breakthrough. The topic is Early Childhood Education and; importance and MO and Federal funding impacts.

May 18, 2013 is our Annual Meeting and we'll have an update from Missouri Legislature Representatives.

Remember, there are always opportunities to stay involved and if something interests you; don't hesitate to contact me at lwvkcjcp@yahoo.com, it takes all of us to make US successful. Thank you for what YOU do in and for the community and remember LWV IS the organization where hands-on work leads to democracy.

Membership Report:

Feb. 1 is an important date in League business. It is the date that our National per member payment is determined (PMP). The League year goes from July 1st through June 30th. The number of members you have on your roster as of Jan. 31 will be the number you will pay dues to National and State for the next year (2013-2014). We are a grassroots organization that works on all levels of government—national, state and local. Your dues help support each level of operation. Most of our members have the same expiration date –July 1st —and take the opportunity to renew their membership at our Annual Meeting which will be May 18th this year. We have a few members who are still on an anniversary date of their membership renewal. In order to make it easier on the membership chair, and to have everyone with the same due date, I am offering those members who do not have a 7-1-13 expiration date listed on the roster, 18 months of membership for the cost of 12 months. Our annual dues remain at \$50. My goals for the rest of the League year are to have everyone renew before July 1st and to add new members to our roster.

It is the job of the membership chair to keep the National data base updated. This year National added some incentive. I was surprised when Peg, our president, sent me a copy of the following email:

Congratulations to our Second Round of Database Contest Winners! Thanks to the MANY Leagues that updated the expiration date on all of their member records in the national database by January 25th. Of those, five Leagues were selected at random to receive a \$25 Staples gift card. Our five lucky Leagues are: LWV of Mendocino County (CA), LWV of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties (MO), LWV of Glen Rock (NJ), LWV of The Cape Cod Area (MA), and LWV of Pensacola Bay Area (FL). Congratulations to these Leagues!

FYI-The League will not be marching in the Brookside St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade this year. We have done this for the past several years as a chance to get some exposure and to hand out membership pamphlets along the route; however, due to conflicts in schedules we have had to cancel this year. Save the date for next year—it is a lot of fun and we get lots of cheers for the women walking in suffragist's costumes.

We have exciting programs planned for March 16th on Campaign Finance & April 20th we will learn about budget effects on child care services. More details are elsewhere in the Voter. Please mark your calendar for the 3rd Saturday of the month. We meet at 9:30 for social time before the 10 o'clock program. Please invite your friends.

Thank you to Tommye Sexton & Patricia Keairnes for their membership renewal. If anyone would like a new roster before our Annual Meeting, please email me at thehochs@hotmail.com or call me.
Donna Hoch-Membership Chair - 816-322-8071

FYI

There is a new website I think you may find interesting and helpful. It is the result of a collaborative effort by the Office of the Historian and the Clerk's Office of Art and Archives. They collect, preserve, and interpret the heritage of the House. The website features records and research materials that date back to the beginning of Congress. There is a database for art, artifacts, documents, individuals, stories and highlights from House history. There are also education resources for teachers and students. For more information please visit: <http://history.house.gov> ---
from the office of Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II

Education – Charter Schools

LWVMO conducted education studies on Charter Schools, 2007 and School Accountability and Choice, 2011. The MO 2012 Legislature made charter school changes effective August. 28, 2012 with MO SB 160.400, SB 160.403, SB 160.417, SB 160.425, SB 576. This enabled charter school sponsors, MO universities (public and religious affiliated) and community colleges with the addition of MO accredited public school district school boards to be sponsors beyond the boundaries of KCMO School District and St. Louis School District.

A charter school has its own school board that answers to the sponsor. The sponsor has the responsibility to see that the terms of the contract between the sponsor and the charter school are upheld. This includes fiscal issues, closing nonperforming schools, reports to Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Schools (DESE) required MAP scores, IEP (Individual Education Plan for special needs students) etc.

MO Charter Public School Association's goal is to expand to 100 charter schools in MO by 2020. Currently there are 45 charters in KCMO and St. Louis. Fall, 2013 three charters will open in St. Louis. 7-8 charters are in the starting process which is usually two years. MCPSA's vision is to be recognized as the primary resource and representative voice of the state's charter school sector.

2011-12 KCMO charter student enrollment - 10,003; 39.5% of KCMO School Dist.

33.9% charter student enrollment St. Louis School District.

Questions to consider: Can for-profit and not-for profit instructional operator corporations be the providers of materials, staff inservice, and management?

Can a conflict of interest arise with elected traditional public school board members being a sponsor of oversight for a charter?

For more information see MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education www.dese.mo.gov and Charter Public School Assc. www.mocharterschools.org

Delores Blaser, Education



P.O. Box 10416

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Calendar

March

11 - BOD Meeting – 7:00 – 8:30

16 – **GENERAL MEETING** Campaign Finance

Jason Kander and Beverlee J. Roper

April

8 - BOD Meeting – 7:00 – 8:30

Call to Annual Meeting

17 – Legislative Day --- Jefferson City

20 - **GENERAL MEETING** Early Childhood Education

Sr. Berta Sailer (Early Childhood)

May

4 & 5 - LWVMO Convention –Jefferson City, MO—note change in place

13 – BOD Meeting – 7:00 – 8:30 -

18 - LWV KC/C/J/P -**ANNUAL MEETING** -- Missouri Legislative Update

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