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**LEAGUE REPORTER**  
**WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS**  
Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144  
314-961-6869  
[www.lwvstl.org](http://www.lwvstl.org)  
August, 2008

## From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

Summertime is supposed to be the time to kick back and relax. Well, maybe next summer, but back here in 2008 we are scrambling. Micki Hoffman's last day in the office was June 27. Brenda Banjak is calling on her former experience to fill in as office manager during this time of transition. We feel fortunate and grateful for her willingness and her competence.

We advertised for a part-time Executive Director position and were awed by the number of out-standing applicants. The process is going smoothly and the difficulty is choosing which well-qualified person will best fit the needs and vision of the St. Louis and MO Leagues.

And speaking of willingness and competence, Lorrie Riley, our summer intern, will be returning to school all too soon. She has been a tremendous help getting Smart Voter and the print voters' guide together. We cannot thank her enough for all the extra hours she has put in on our behalf.

Thank you, Lorrie, from the bottom of our collective heart.

*Doris*

### 2008-2009 LWV ST. LOUIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

Pres. Doris Buzzell  
1<sup>st</sup> V. P. Janice Dahl  
2<sup>nd</sup> V. P. Patti Walley  
3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. Enid Tennebaum  
Sec'y. Mary Beth Reynolds  
Treas. Becky Clausen

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Georgia Archibald  
Mary Ellen Brucker  
Marjorie Courtney  
Kathleen Farrell  
Eve Golden  
Helen Herndon  
Sydell Shayer  
Jo Ann Simpson

**Newsletter Editor** --Joyce Guard

### CALENDAR

Wed.	July 23	7:00 PM	Kirkwood City Council Candidate Forum	Kirkwood Methodist
Tues.	Aug. 5	6:00 AM	Election Day	Your Polling Place
Tues.	Aug 12	6:00 PM	EQ Meeting	Office
Sat.	Aug. 16	9:30 AM	Education Committee Meeting	Office
Sat.	Aug. 23	9:30 AM	Women's Equality Day Brunch	Crown Plaza
Sat/Sun	Aug. 23/24,		Festival of Nations	Tower Grove Park
Mon.	Sept. 1	6:00 AM	Tailgate Sale	UC Loop
Sat.	Sept. 6	10:00 AM	Yellow Umbrella Event	St.Louis University
Wed.	Sept. 17	5:30 PM	Kickoff Meeting and Dinner	Favazza's Restaurant



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## Membership

in the *Festival of Nations* at Tower Grove Park on Saturday, August 24 from 10 am -6 pm. We are currently looking for and please contact the League office as soon as possible. If you are you to attend the event and see the melting pot that is the St.

Louis community.



## Environmental Quality Committee

The next EQ Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12 at 6 p.m. at the League office. At our April meeting, we decided to continue with evening meetings so that the Committee is available to those who cannot attend day meetings.

*Nancy Bowser--EQ Chair*



## Education Committee

The Education Committee will not meet in June or July. We hope you will join us at our next meeting, on Saturday, August 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the League office.

## Speakers Bureau

LWV speakers in Ma included KATHY MARET and KATHLEEN FARRELL for AHEPA senior housing group and Grace Hill parenting group. In July, IDA WEST is speaking to an adult group at Greater Pentecostal Church of God and LOIS BLISS will speak to another AHEPA group of seniors. KATHLEEN FARRELL returns to Grace Hill on August 20 to speak to young people in their Transition to Work program. Our LWV members are letting these groups know about the League and our voter information services.

*Marjorie Courtney, Coordinator*

### August 23, 2008 Womanø Equality Day Brunch

Speaker: Lili Ledbetter

Program: Election & Legislative Issues, Political Action, Awards, Womenø Equity

Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet, Crystal Ballroom

Cost: \$35.00 - Checks payable to Missouri Womenø Network

Mail Reservation to Joyce Guard, 909 Parkview Valley Drive, Manchester, MO 63011



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St. Louis to the National Convention!

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Missourian Voters of St. Louis had the opportunity to gain insights into the state and national Leagues last month at the National Convention

in Portland, Oregon. President Doris Buzzell, First Vice President Janice Dahl, Board Member Kathleen Farrell, and Judith Smart acted as voting delegates for the League at the four-day conference which fairly buzzed with the issues of the day. They joined six other Missourians from across the state which included Betty Ann Gilbert of St. Louis who represented LWVMO as a delegate.

Two former Oregon governors inspired us about the importance of good public debate on the question of health care and the need for the League to continue its work to inform voters and advocate for important legislation. A former Colorado Supreme Court Justice told us about her work to improve the national judicial system, and experts on climate change urged us to action.

Doris Schapira and Patty Day gave their report on their work at the UN. They are the League's observers who go in to the UN every Thursday for briefings. Doris said if you are going to NYC and will give her at least a week's warning she can get you in with her. Doris received a richly deserved award for all of her work at the UN from President Mary Wilson at the closing banquet.

A number of important program items were approved after a healthy amount of well-reasonable and passionate debate:

- A Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.\*
- A multi-level education and advocacy campaign to promote solutions to global climate change.\*
- Adoption of a study item on the advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President. (The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee a majority of the Electoral College to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia).

While these program items passed, others were defeated. An Illinois League proposed studying the need for a Department of Peace and Nonviolence at the US cabinet level which would be for both domestic and foreign problems, pro-peace as opposed to anti-war. This came before the plenary, was ruled out of order by the President, and died at least for this convention.

Delegates approved a combined budget for the LWVUS and Education Fund of \$6.9 million which will require an increase in the per-member-payments of \$1.20 this year and another \$1.20 next year. These are the payments from local leagues to the national league. They are currently \$26.80 and will go immediately to \$28.00 in this fiscal year.

guers are doing during the "Parade of the Saints." State and local  
trictions, violations of sunshine laws, and poor election practices.  
ople about government, and advocating for legislative reforms.  
ership Recruitment Initiative it piloted in some local and state

leagues in the last 2 years. It is not included in the budget. Instead, they are privately fundraising under the Leaders  
for Leadership Initiative in order to carry out this program and leadership training. This will also fund travel by the  
national board to state League meetings. We attended a number of programs on this important initiative and  
brought good ideas home for our own membership recruitment effort.

A program on large city leagues talked extensively about the challenges facing unit meetings, where many leagues  
are seeing declining attendance. There was much discussion of membership recruitment among professional  
women and men, changing meeting times and schedules, aligning topics to potential member interests.

There was a wealth of other interesting workshops and caucuses we attended where we could discuss topics of  
mutual interest with other League members or learn about studies others are engaged in. For instance, there was  
one on Education and the federal government hosted by a CA League. Members there believe the LWV position  
needs to be broadened and strengthened in order to do effective advocacy; they hope for a reexamination and  
expansion at the national level. Another workshop, Engaging New Citizens as New Voters, was led by William  
McNamee of the Portland CIS. A guide published by the League was passed out along with a Civics and  
Citizenship toolkit and DVD from the CIS. General discussion followed about problems Leagues have had when  
registering voters and problems CIS has had with applications, filing, and swearing in ceremonies. In some places  
the CIS officers swear people in; in others such as St. Louis it is done by judges.

No matter what your interests are in the League there were meetings before and after the plenaries where you could  
engage in wonderful, intelligent conversation and discussion with women and men throughout the country.

Thank you for your support that made it possible for us to go to Portland. We came back enriched, inspired and  
ready to work!

*Kathleen Farrell and Janice Dahl*

\*Editors Footnote: These studies are to review current positions on healthcare and global warming. They are not  
new studies for consensus.



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## ARTS PROPOSITION Y FOR MSD

### BALLOT WORDING: PROPOSITION Y

To comply with federal and state clean water requirements, shall The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) issue its sewer system revenue bonds in the amount of Two Hundred Seventy-five Million Dollars (\$275,000,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing, improving, renovating, repairing, replacing and equipping new and existing MSD sewer facilities and system, including sewer disposal and treatment plants, sanitary and combined sanitary and stormwater sewers, and acquisition of easements and real property related thereto, the cost of operation and maintenance of said sewer system and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by MSD from the operation of its sanitary sewer system, including all future extensions and improvements thereto?

YES NO

### SIMPLE MAJORITY REQUIRED

The League is supporting Proposition Y on the August ballot. The proposition is for a \$275 million dollar revenue bond issue for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD). The bond issue will partially fund the \$661 million dollar second phase of the Capital Improvement and Replacement Program designed to bring the district into compliance with the requirements of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The remainder of the cost of Phase II will be paid with Pay As You Go (PAYGO) financing. The proposed method of financing with a combination of bond and PAYGO is being proposed because it will enable the district to continue to move forward on the infrastructure replacement program with less of an impact on the customer rates than financing by PAYGO alone. However, if the proposal fails, the result will be financing completely with PAYGO. The project must move forward to enable the District to make progress to meet the State and Federal mandates. MSD is currently being sued by the DNR and the EPA. The question is not if the program will proceed but how it will be paid for.

Projected average residential wastewater rates if Proposition Y passes are \$25.74 per month effective in fiscal year 2009 increasing to \$28.73 per month in fiscal year 2012. If Proposition Y fails, the projected average residential rates are \$28.89 per month in fiscal year 2009 increasing to \$36.79 in fiscal year 2012.

Arguments in favor of Proposition Y are that it: lowers the immediate financial impact on ratepayers; amortizes the cost of improvements over a period of their use; and provides immediate funding for construction. Arguments in favor of PAYGO financing are: it saves money in the long run because there are no interest costs and it reserves bonding capacity for future use.

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### New Members:

Norma Jean Vavra  
440 Melville Ave.  
St. Louis MO 63130-4602

### Address Changes:

Jeanine Prickett  
808 Winter Lake Ct.  
St. Louis, MO 63125-3287

## TRIBUTES

In honor of Micki Hoffman from Lois Bliss to LWV St. Louis.



Monday, Sept. 1st (Labor Day) @ the Loop

Setup: 6 a.m.

Starts: 8 a.m.

Ends: 3 p.m.



## Annual Tailgate Sale

*Donate items sell in the LWV  
booth.*

*Volunteer your time to help!  
Come shop for Treasures!*

*Tell your friends, neighbors,  
churches and organizations to  
buy a booth!  
\$30 each*

**314-961-6869 League of Women Voters of St. Louis—Promoting an Educated & Empowered Electorate**

### Vote Informed on August 5<sup>th</sup>

With One Stop Shopping for  
Election Information

On the web at:

<http://www.lwvstl.org> or <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Available in print format . Call or write for your copy.

Reliable, free information on candidates and issues  
from a trusted, nonpartisan group.

**The League of Women Voters  
of St. Louis Information Service**

*Promoting an Educated & Empowered Electorate*

8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144 Phone (314) 961-6869

**ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED - Contact the St. Louis County Election Office**

**314-615-1840**

[www.Stlouisco.com/elections/judges.html](http://www.Stlouisco.com/elections/judges.html)



A re-creation of the Walk-less, Talk-less Parade of 1916, commemorating the fight for women to get the right to vote!

Wear white and get a yellow t-shirt. In this important election year, let St. Louis know it's important for everyone – men and women, young and old – to VOTE!

**Sponsored by The Ben & Jerry's Foundation  
The League of Women Voters Information Service  
In partnership with Kids Voting Missouri**

**Date: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. Parade**

**Registration Starts: 9:00 a.m.**

**Speakers: 11:30 a.m.**

**Place: St. Louis University, Boileau Hall @ Vandeventer & Laclede**

**Pre-register: \$25/Participate and get a free yellow t-shirt**

**Kids Voting Missouri Registrants walk FREE!**

**Businesses: \$350/up to 10 Participants Walk and get free yellow t-shirts**

**On-Site Registration: \$30 and get a t-shirt (while they last)**

**Parade: 1/2 mile and 1-mile route**

**Registration form @ [www.lwvstl.org](http://www.lwvstl.org)**

**Voter Registration will be on-site!**

**Contact person: 314-961-6869**

**League of Women Voters  
Information Service**

8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104  
St. Louis, MO 63144

Phone: 314-961-6869  
E-mail: [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com)  
[www.lwvstl.org](http://www.lwvstl.org)

Benefits to  
**KIDS VOTING MISSOURI**

**YELLOW UMBRELLA EVENT**  
**THE WALK-LESS TALK-LESS PARADE FOR**  
**VOTERS RIGHTS...IN 2008!**