



IN LEAGUE REPORTER –FEBRUARY 2011
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
314.961.6869 **www.lwvstl.org**

From the President:

As we begin the second month of 2011 we look forward to a year full of activities. The League will be talking about, advocating for, promoting, celebrating and having some fun. The fun will be the enjoyment of the friendships, relationships, and discussions we have among League members whether it is in the office, working on projects, committees, at units or other meetings. Issues on the League table will include: the Civility Project, support for a vote at the April election in the City of St. Louis to continue the earnings tax; Voters Guide for the March primary election in the City and the April municipal elections; candidate forums, voters hotline, public policy issues of voting rights, financing of state government, a tax system that is equitable and progressive, the state’s responsibility to its citizens, health care, and redistricting. We will also have actions on our internal growth and change, outreach to new members, establishing an Observers Corp, deciding on program and new study for the state and our local Leagues and national studies, and consensus. Plan today on the always great Theatre Party (see below for more details) -- that falls in the fun category.

The League strives to be in the fore front of issues and for the last two years there has been discussion on list-servs and meetings across the nation about the civility of discussions and what the League role might be. Last summer, before the horrific tragedy in Tucson brought the discussion of civility to a higher level of awareness the League was discussing how we in St. Louis might make a difference. We have a program planned in February focusing on teaching skills for civil discussions to elected officials from municipalities to the U.S Congress.

On January 13th Elisabeth MacNamara, President, the League of Women Voters of the United States issued a statement about the Tucson tragedy which closed with the following statement: “For 90 years, the League has worked to facilitate the civil exchange of different points of view, to bridge the gap between the voters and the elected, and to help improve the functioning of government. We hope that moving forward our nation will come together to foster and strengthen the very essence of our representative democracy: ‘government of the people, by the people, for the people.’” As Elisabeth said this has been our mission for 90 years, our efforts continue this year and into the future. *Linda C. Mc Daniel*

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CALENDAR

Sat.	Feb	5	9:00-12:30	Civility Project	Pg 7	Forest Park CC
Sat.	Feb	5	9:30 am	Education Committee	Pg. 6	League Office
Sat.	Feb	5	12:30-5 pm	Theatre Party <i>Shadowlands</i>	Pg. 8	Fontbonne
Thurs..	Feb	10	10:30 am	Health Care Committee	Pg. 5	Cape Albion
Fri.	Feb	11	10 am	International Relations Comm.	Pg. 6	St Louis Cnty Lib. Hdqtrs
	Feb	9-14		Unit Meetings	Pg. 6-7	
Tues.	Feb	8	7 pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	Pg. 6	League Office
Sat.	Feb	5	9:30 am	Education Committee	Pg. 6	League Office
Thurs.	Feb	17	6:30-8 pm	Earnings Tax Forum	Pg 2	Old Post Office
Mon.	Feb.	21		Presidents’ Day		OFFICE CLOSED
Sat	Feb	26	9:30 am-1 pm	Civility Project	Pg. 7	Forest Park CC

WHERE THE LEAGUE STANDS – IMPORTANT ISSUES!!!

EARNINGS TAX

Retaining the earnings tax in the City of St. Louis is the number one League local action priority

In April, St. Louis City voters will decide whether they want to retain or eliminate the city's earnings tax. The League supports retention because it provides over one third of the city's income. That is a big chunk of money for the city to lose. Programs and services would be drastically curtailed with this revenue. The only other options that could provide enough income to replace the earnings tax would be an increase in the sales tax or the property tax. Both would have to be extremely high to replace a lost earnings tax and would be an extreme burden on the residents of the city. Presently, the earnings tax is paid by all who work in the city whether they live there or not.

The League is working in coalition with a variety of other organizations to ensure success in the April election. Although this is a city issue, the entire League has chosen this as a priority. There are many volunteer opportunities and we are preparing to take action when the right moment occurs. So please look at the list below and let the League office know where you can help.

Volunteer Opportunities

Work the phone bank

Distribute literature

Put up a lawn sign

Write a letter to the editor to any newspaper distributed in the city

Educate your friends and neighbors

Give a talk through the League Speakers Bureau

Attend a rally

Work the polls

LEAGUE CO-SPONSORING EARNINGS TAX FORUM

On February 17th at the Old Post Office in St. Louis, the League will be co-sponsoring a forum with the Downtown St. Louis Residents Association from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Among the participants are Mayor Francis Slay and Comptroller Darlene Green. Plans are still underway, so mark your calendars!

ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY: Advocacy on the national level

The St. Louis League just sent a request to the League of Women Voters of the United States to include some action at the national level on abolition of the death penalty for the coming League year. The LWVUS has had a position for abolition since 2006 and we think it is about time that the League publicized its stance and work on the issue when the opportunity arises. This action was taken because the LWVUS asked for suggestions for issue priorities.

ISSUES FOR UPCOMING STATE LEGISLATURE

The Missouri state League has not come up with a legislative agenda for this new legislative session. However, I have looked at some of the bills already filed and think the following are of League interest.

SJR 1 – a proposed constitutional amendment to replace all taxes on income with a sales tax and a use tax

SJR 3 – a constitutional amendment to require the Attorney General to seek appropriate relief against action of the Federal Government when directed by the Governor, General Assembly or petition of the voters

HB 26 – change voter authorization on city earnings tax from 5-20 years

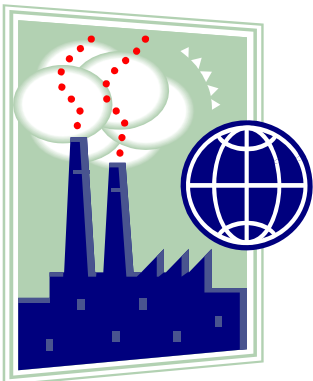
HB 28 – no pharmacy can be required to perform, assist, recommend, refer to, or participate in any act or service resulting in an abortion and will be immune from liability for refusing to do so.

HB 39 - calls on the Attorney General to file an independent lawsuit or join 20 state Attorney Generals in their lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the federal healthcare reform legislation.

HB 52 – a bill to require the Department of Revenue to establish necessary rules to implement the compliance provision of the multi-state Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (collect sales tax on out of state catalogue purchases)

SB 15 - allows full deductibility of federal taxes for state income tax purposes

*Advocacy Reporter
Sydell Shayer*



THE ENVIRONMENT: SUSTAINABILITY

St Louis will be testing a new Sustainability performance Tool

St. Louis is part of the nine cities that will be Beta Testing a new sustainability performance tool called STAR Community Index. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, which is developing STAR, said it will transform and accelerate the local sustainability movement by offering cities and counties a

roadmap for advancing climate protection, economic recovery and equal opportunities for all residents within a community.

The following nine cities and counties that were selected as STAR “Beta Communities” are Atlanta, GA, Boulder, CO, Chattanooga, TN, Cranberry Township, PA, Des Moines, IA, District of Columbia, King County, WA, New York, NY and St. Louis, MO. **“These nine early-adopter cities, along with many other communities across the nation, are already taking the lead on energy efficiency and sustainable development in their own right and as such, they are the perfect candidates to advance the goals and mission of STAR, which is to build healthier, inclusive and more livable communities,”** said Martin Chávez, Executive Director, ICLEI USA and three-term mayor of Albuquerque, NM. The Beta Communities will receive technical support and resources to position them to become early adopters of STAR and accelerate their various sustainability efforts.

The STAR online platform will provide users with a variety of features to enable quick uptake of the STAR Community Index. The STAR Community Index is being developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA) in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), National League of Cities (NLC), and Center for American Progress (CAP). The platform will include features to enable local governments to analyze, map, and manage all their sustainability data in one place, and to present that information to internal managers, executives, and the public using a sustainability dashboard that interfaces with a city’s or county’s website. The tool will also facilitate data sharing with ICLEI for the verification and certification of a community under the forthcoming STAR rating system.

THE LEAGUE AT WORK

VOTER REGISTRATION

In 2010 LWVIS was present at 39 Naturalization Ceremonies to register 1,331 new American citizens to vote. Most of the ceremonies are held at the Thomas Eagleton Courthouse; special naturalization ceremonies were held at the Old Courthouse, Parkway South High School, Harris-Stowe State University, and the U. S. Grant Historical Site. The new citizens come from all over Missouri. We sent voter registration forms to 37 Missouri Counties. We register approximately fifty per cent of the new citizens.



LWVIS tries to accommodate all requests for voter registration. The LWV sign was visible at Harrah’s Casino, St. Louis Public Schools Open House, YWCA/LWV 90th celebration of the 19th amendment, Festival of Nations, Mehlville School District, Kirkwood School District, Nerinx Hall, and Operation Youth Build. The latter was a class in learning the importance of voting and registering the students to vote. We often don’t register very many individuals at these sites, but we give lots of information.

Willing to take the time to get to the sites, which often is longer than it takes to register, were Joan Botwinick, Stefany Brot, Evelyn Buretta, Lori Calcaterra, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Marj Courtney, Pam DeVoe, Susan Fluegel, Joe Kleeman, Cindy Mitchell, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Judith Smart, Carol Teig, Billie Teneau, and K Wentzien.

Carol Portman, Chair

WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter Wonderland had a lot of bad weather including high winds that blew down some of the displays, and such cold temperatures they could not ask volunteers to collect on one night.

Our night was great—in the mid 30s with no wind or rain. Our great bunch of volunteers had lots of fun collecting from the over 700 cars that came through, plus greeting all the carriages filled with happy adults and excited children.

Many thanks to Marj Courney, Elise and Denny Joerger, Billie Teneau, Allen Ranford, Mary Long, Pat Jones, Kathleen Farrell, Doris Buzzell, Susan Fluegel and Catherine Stenger. With your help we received a check from the County Parks and Recreation for \$500. Happy New Year to you all—see you in December 2011!

Barbara Elbrecht, Chair

LOIS BLISS HONORED with West County Journal Award

The West County Journal started 2011 by honoring several people who are committed to “enriching their communities” as professionals and volunteers. Lois’ dedication to the Kirkwood Library and the League of Women Voters are chronicled in the article. Her 51 year involvement with the League includes serving as president of the Kirkwood League and as a member of the League’s state board. One of her most recent contributions to her community was as a volunteer on the U S Department of Justice City/Community Mediation Team, created in the aftermath of the Kirkwood City Hall shootings.



The comment Lois made about her work with the Mediation Team dovetails with the current Civility project: "That was an opportunity to learn how people really felt and what their perceptions were, to build relationships, trust and new avenues of communication," Bliss said.

Lois continues to be role model for individuals wishing to serve their communities. We are grateful Lois chose the League years ago and continues to inspire us through who she is and her service to the St. Louis community.

COMMITTEES AT WORK

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE



The League of Women Voters Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, February 10th at Cape Albeon at 10:30 a.m. in the private dining room. We will discuss “Health Care Justice” in line with the League’s position on Health Care. Call Katharine Kilpatric at 636.861.7148 if you have any questions relating to directions to the meeting place or if you plan to attend. Cape

Albeon from Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry. Go west on Dougherty Ferry to Lake Bend Drive, (after you cross Big Bend) Left on Lake Bend Drive and you are there.

Katharine Kilpatric, Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will meet on Friday, February 11 at 10 a.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. Our study topic is China. All are welcome to attend.



Judith Smart, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Committee will be Tuesday, February 8th at the League Office at 5:30 p.m. Dessert will be provided. The Topic for this year is Environmental Quality and Sustainability. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle (mcroyle@wustl.edu or (314.395.7876) with suggestions or questions. We will continue to work on preparing for the March Unit Meeting and planning a General Meeting.

Mickey Croyle, Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will meet on Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 am at the League office. Beginning in February the committee will continue to meet on the first Saturday of each month through June. League members are always welcomed to attend these meetings.



Marty Ott, chair
314-434-0330
martyott06@yahoo.com

UNIT MEETINGS

February units will focus in on a frank discussion among League members about how we prepare for and do advocacy in the 21st century. Our local, state, and national positions on issues are carefully considered and crafted through the consensus process. Translating the position into effective action has become increasingly challenging as both legislators (by which we mean your local city council, as well as the state legislators and Congress) reflect popular polarization and dissatisfaction with government.

So what to do? Our civil discourse training for elected officials certainly is a piece of the puzzle. Getting acquainted personally with legislators, as we began with our holiday lunch, is helpful. But how should our League approach advocacy for our issues?

At February units Nancy Thompson, Legislative Action chair, will lead members through a facilitated discussion about these topics and whatever members would like to discuss about the Missouri Legislature's expected top issues this session, including:



- Open enrollment of students from unaccredited school districts
- Right to work repeal
- Replacing the income tax with a higher sales tax, known as the fair tax proposal
- How to balance the budget
- Redistricting, taking into account Missouri's loss of one Congressional representative

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, Feb. 8
 9:15 a.m. coffee
 9:30 a.m. meeting

NEW LOCATION !!

155 N Hanley
 314.725.4829
 Leader: Carol Portman
 314.726.3269

Directions: Southwest corner Hanley and Pershing. If no space in front of building, park on Pershing

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, Feb 9
 9:30 a.m. meeting

HOME OF PATSY FARRIOR

513 Meadow Creek Ln
 314.821.0197
 Leader: Mary Long,
 314.849.7045

.Directions: Manchester to Woodlawn. North on Woodlawn to 3rd street on right (Meadow Creek Ln). Third house on left with red mailbox.

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday Feb. 10
 9:30 a.m. meeting
 Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
 314.434.5116
 Leader: Mary Brown 636.532.0833

Directions: From 270 take Ladue Road west 1.4 miles to Chasselle, Right on Chasselle, at 2nd circle, turn right on Champeix, 5th house on the right. White house with red sculpture.

EVENING UNIT

Thursday, Feb. 10
 7:00 p.m.

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
 314.961.6869
 Leader: Esther Clark, 314.416.0366

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, Feb. 12
10:30 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314.925.8251

Hot tea and coffee and some valentine treats. Our meeting is from 10:30 till noon at Trinity Episcopal Church at the corner of Washington and Euclid in the Central West End. If you need more information or a ride, call Kathleen Farrell at 314.773.2876.

Observer Corp: LOOKING FOR OBSERVER CORPS VOLUNTEERS!!

Part of the League's mission is to be well informed about what our government is doing. An effective way of doing that is to train and deploy volunteers to just attend and observe government bodies. It might sound tedious, but that's what it takes to really know what's going on, and if you stick with it, you become an expert! We need to grow our experts. If you are interested in becoming an Observer, please email Kathleen Kelly @ dkbkmk01@swbell.net or call 314.533.3972.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members:

Mary A. Bruemmer

Patricia Gray

Annette P. Heller

A. Laverne Howard

Catherine Stenger

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

In honor of Sydell Shayer's birthday from Mary Ellen Brucker to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Sydell & Larry Shayer, Anna Mennerick, Julie Behrens, Esther & Jim Clark, and Linda McDaniel from Kathleen Farrell to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Sydell and Larry Shayer's special birthdays from Agnes Garino and Irv & Vivian Siegel to LWV Information Service.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Welcome to 2011. As the new year starts we are busy with the Theatre Party, voter registration, candidate forums for the spring elections, voter guide for the spring election, and fundraising to help support our activities. Thanks to those who assisted the office staff with various tasks. Since our last edition we want to thank Brenda Banjak, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Debby Howard, Pat Jones, Katharine Kilpatric, Linda McDaniel, Tom Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Sydell Shayer, Nancy Thompson, Patti Walley, and Lolly Wehrli.

CIVILITY PROJECT

The first event of the Civility Project will be on February 5th from 9:00-12:30. If you are interested in attending, please call the League office as soon as possible.

**Controversial
Civil Issues
Conversations**

**February 5th
& February 26th
9:30am – 12:30pm**

The League of Women Voters Information Service and
Washington University School of Law present:

How to Have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times

**Moderator: C.J. Larkin, Senior Lecturer
Washington University Law School**

These workshops will prepare elected officials in St. Louis City and St. Louis County to engage in and promote thoughtful, civil conversations about controversial issues in our communities.

The demonstration issue will be the *Impact of Immigration* on all levels of government. Cost: \$40 for both sessions, including materials and refreshments

Call the League office for Reservation and Information
314.961.6869

Volunteer Coordinator Needed



The St. Louis League is looking for an individual interested in working approximately 5-10 hours a month. The ***Volunteer Coordinator*** position becomes more important as the League expands activities such as the Voters Guide. Interested persons should contact Anna at the League office.

WWW.MARYKAY.COM/JANICEDAHL ♦ JANICEDAHL@MARYKAY.COM

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Entrepreneurial League Members can advertise products or services here. Ad revenue helps underwrite this vital source of member communication.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS – Anna Mennerick

There are more elections coming are you ready? Well of course you are ready, you are a League Member, right? If you have moved recently, The Board of Elections needs your current address. If you will be out of town make sure to request an absentee ballot. If you are passionate about a local, state or national issue you need to know about pending legislation and which candidates are informed and ready to make choices consistent with your views. Are your friends and family registered to vote? What about that co-worker or neighbor whose bumper stickers make you crazy? Ask her if she is registered to vote. Remind him that his children at college need to register at school or request absentee ballots.

Don't forget to read the League/ Post-Dispatch Voters Guide and become informed about what each candidate has to offer. If you have an extra hour, pick up some voter's guides and distribute them to the people you see each week. A couple of hours and you can help produce the guide or make needed deliveries beyond your circle. Attend a candidate or issue forum or take the extra step and volunteer to help the League provide these valuable services to our community. Ready or not, here they come.

***Join Us for "Shadowlands" the Annual Theatre Party Event,
February 5th***

The show will be on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Fontbonne University Theatre, 6800 Wydown Blvd. and will begin with a reception at 12:30 p.m. followed by the performance at 2:00 p.m. The venue at Fontbonne will provide a good seat for everyone and parking is located right next to the Fine Arts Building.

Choose the sponsorship level best for you and send the reservation sheet below to: League of Women Voters Information Service, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. If you choose to designate your gift to the tax deductible Information Service, make your check out to LWVIS. If you choose to support the League, make your check payable to the LWV St. Louis.

Sponsorship Levels:

Gold: \$500.00 (6 tickets)

Silver: \$300.00 (4 tickets)

Bronze: \$150.00 (2 tickets)

Single Ticket: \$55.00

Yes, I will be a sponsor of the Theatre Party on February 5th!

Name _____ Sponsorship level: _____ # of tickets needed: _____

Address to send this receipt to: _____



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