



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST LOUIS

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104,
St Louis, MO 63144

314.961.6869 www.facebook.com/lwvstl www.lwvstl.org

NOVEMBER 2012

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League Members in Action

This year the election preseason has been one of the busiest in recent memory. The Online Voters Guide is ready for voters all over the state, thanks to the combined efforts of League members in St. Louis, Columbia, Kansas City, Mexico, Moberly, Sedalia, and Springfield. The Post-Dispatch included print copies in their Oct. 26th edition. Also, paper copies will be distributed and internet pages will be viewed.

Hundreds of voters have also heard presentations by our Speakers Bureau presenters on topics ranging from ballot issues and judging judges to absentee voting and the Right to Vote for Felons. Fifteen presentations were made in the city and county for groups varying in size from 5-50.

Candidate Forums were held as late as October 29th for State and Congressional elections.

Members are also presenting materials developed by the Kids Vote project. Marty Ott's committee has facilitated cooperation with area school districts. In addition, information is being presented at South City Preparatory School and Roosevelt High School to teachers and parents.

None of this would have been possible without the hours of work put in by our co-presidents; Patti Walley; data collectors and Guide deliverers; our presenters; voter registrars; and of course Julie and Anna, who were also helping the Missouri LWV with their pre-election tasks.

If you weren't able to be involved during this election, you missed some wonderful experiences. But wait — I think you are just in time to sign up for the April 2013 Municipal Elections! You have probably already heard St. Louis Mayor Slay and Alderman Reed talking to the media.

Let's celebrate this year of stellar involvement with our Holiday Luncheon Dec. 8th, inviting guests and sharing the commitment to inform and facilitate voters.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun.	Nov. 4	2:30-4:30	U N Day 2012	First Unitarian Church p.5
Tues.	Nov. 6		ELECTION DAY POLLS OPEN 6am-7pm	KMOV Voters Hotline
Fri.	Nov. 9	10:00am	International Relat. Comm	SLCL Headqtrts
Sat.	Nov. 10	9-3:00pm	Fall Conference LWVMO	Sedalia-see Missouri Voter
Week of Nov.10-14			UNIT MEETINGS	See p. 6
Thurs.	Nov 15	1-3:00pm	Health Care Committee	Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church

Wed.- Fri. Nov.21-23 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Wed. Nov. 28 6:00 LWVSTL Board Meeting League Office

PLANNING AHEAD for DECEMBER

Sat.	Dec. 8	11:30am	Holiday Luncheon	Orlando Gardens
Mon.	Dec. 10	5-10pm	Winter Wonderland	Tilles Park

Message From the Presidents

“ I knew that the League Could Help Me”

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 ☆ “Remember
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 ☆ any useful
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We have heard this comment from the many people calling and coming to the office for information, candidates, local media outlets, and our friends and neighbors. The phone is ringing non-stop, our printed Voters Guide went out to 200,000 Post-Dispatch subscribers and additional thousands to libraries, churches, senior centers, apartment complexes, union halls, and other locations in six counties and St. Louis City. Forty two Schnucks stores will have thousands more. We are holding last minute candidate forums, speaking engagements, and meetings with Le Monde (the French version of the NYT), international election observers, and just plain folks. In the midst of the whirlwind one of our visitors describing their own elections said: “But Only the First Wife Can Vote!”

That’s what we heard from a representative from the Democratic Republic of the Congo when we met with nine women officials from French speaking Africa in St. Louis. The group was very interested in the League’s history of citizen education and voting rights. They looked at Vote 411 on line, our historic photographs and various advocacy materials. They even “passed the hat” and left us with a donation to help with our work. In the frenzy of the election season, we forget how precious the vote is. Our sisters from fledgling democracies reminded us and gave us the encouragement we needed to stay the course.

St. Louis league members have had the busiest election season in recent memory. We made 34 presentations in September and October, registered scores of new voters, visited senior care facilities and assisted residents with absentee ballots, finished both the on-line and print copies of the Voters Guide, prepared for candidate forums, advocated for voting “yes” on the cigarette tax increase, voting “no” on the judicial appointment and health care exchange prohibition. We joined forces with women from the African American service sororities, the NAACP, the Health Care Alliance, the Missouri Bar Association, and the list goes on.

Something is different this presidential election year. People are calling our office and walking in off the street to ask us for materials- in sets of 10, 50 and sometimes 100. They see us as a leader against voter suppression efforts and the organization with the best information on voting and on the state wide ballot initiatives. A reporter from Le Monde in Paris called us this week and spent part of two days with us while he was covering the Missouri Senate debate. We were asked to staff an all Election Day hotline on KMOV, the CBS affiliate in St. Louis. This invitation gave us pause because we didn’t know if we could pull it off. But it is an opportunity to serve our community in a highly visible way. We couldn’t say no and are even attracting some new faces in the League who want to help with this effort.

We will be having mandatory training for this effort and also our office hot line. We’ll let all of you know how it goes. It would be great for local leagues to do all over the state.

Remember our friends lining up to vote in fledgling democracies and in our country as they face intimidation and misinformation campaigns designed to keep them from casting their votes.

Linda McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell

LWV St Louis Teams Up with KMOV Channel 4 for Election Day Hot Line

League members will answer voters’ questions on KMOV TV’s first Election Day Hotline on November 6th. Starting at 6:00 a.m. until the polls close, three teams of five League experts will provide voters with the help they need to exercise the right to vote. KMOV will promote this important service in every newscast beginning one week before the election. We are excited about the ability to add this service to our Election Day hotline service at the League office. Training is required for volunteers wanting to participate. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please call Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609.



So... sign up to help, get ready to do your homework and set those alarms on Election Day!

Important November 2012 Ballot Issues

There are three issues on the November ballot on which the League is actively advocating. One is Proposition B, the Tobacco tax increase which the League supports. Second is Constitution Amendment 3, changing the way certain judges are selected, which the League opposes, and third is Proposition E, which proposes disallowing the governor and state agencies from establishing health care exchanges.

On advocacy issues, League members play an important role. The process goes something like this. The state and local Leagues make their position known officially by either sending out a press release, having a press conference, submitting an op-ed piece to the media or writing a letter to the editor and working in coalition with like-minded groups. Then local League members are encouraged to spread the word as individuals without identifying themselves as League members.

1. Proposition B, commonly known as the cigarette tax.

Prop B would increase tax to 90 cents each pack and include tax increases on additional tobacco products. Even with this increase, Missouri will remain a low cigarette tax state. If passed, this proposal will create the Health and Education Trust Fund which is responsible for the distribution of the revenue gained. The law spells out how the money will be allocated and for what. All of the money must be kept separate from the general fund and may not be used to replace existing funding for the same or similar programs. A small portion of the money generated from this tax will be used to reduce and prevent tobacco use. The rest will go elementary, secondary, college, and university public school funding.

The League supports this tax increase because it believes that public education is presently underfunded at all levels. It believes that state growth in expenditures should be placed in state statutes, not the constitution. The League supports education to decrease the use of tobacco products, especially among young people for health purposes. The money is specifically directed to benefit the student in the classroom. Although the sales tax is a regressive tax, the League recognizes the sales tax as part of a total tax mix for the state. Lastly, the tax meets many of the League's tax criteria. It is easy to understand, difficult to evade, easy to enforce and easy to collect.

2. Constitutional Amendment 3, sometimes referred to as the non-partisan court plan

The state League has made opposing Constitutional Amendment 3 on weakening the non-partisan court plan a top priority advocacy issue for this November 6 election. The non-partisan court plan is also referred to as the Missouri Plan. League members oppose Amendment 3 because the integrity of our court system is at stake.

Why does the League oppose Amendment 3?

The League believes that the non-partisan court plan is just, fair and impartial. It has kept politics out of the judicial system where it is used. The League would like to see it extended to other jurisdictions. The legislature has unsuccessfully attempted to eliminate the plan. Amendment 3 was initiated by the legislature which means it did not have to go through the initiative process. It is an attempt to incrementally weaken the non-partisan court plan by giving the governor more power in the selection of judges.

If passed, the governor, a partisan political person, will be able to appoint a majority of the judicial commission. He could appoint four justices in one term. He could do away with non-lawyer members of the commission. This weakens the democratic selection process.

3. Proposition E: State-Based Health Care Insurance Exchanges for The Affordable Care Act

The LWVUS has a position of support for the Affordable Care Act. The establishment of Health Care Exchanges was contained in the law. Passage of this bill would disallow the governor or a state agency from setting up the exchange. The establishment of an exchange could only be set up by a vote of the state legislature, ballot initiative, or veto referendum. League members oppose PROPOSITION E.

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An Article from the LWV Climate Change Forum: Fred Krupp: A New Climate-Change Consensus

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One scorching summer doesn't confirm that climate change is real any more than a white Christmas proves it's a hoax. What matters is the trend—a decades-long march toward hotter and wilder weather. But with more than 26,000 heat records broken in the last 12 months and pervasive drought turning nearly half of all U.S. counties into federal disaster areas, many data-driven climate skeptics are reassessing the issue.

Respected Republican leaders like Governors John Kasich of Ohio and Chris Christie of New Jersey have spoken out about the reality of climate change. Rupert Murdoch's recent tweet—"Climate change very slow but real. So far all cures worse than disease."—may reflect an emerging conservative view. Even Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, during public comments in June, conceded the reality of climate change while offering assurances that "there will be an engineering solution" and "we'll adapt."

Even if my outlook differs, these views may turn out to be a welcome turning point. For too long the U.S. has had two camps talking past each other on this issue. One camp tended to preach and derided questions about climate science as evidence of bad motivation. The other camp claimed that climate science was an academic scam designed to get more funding, and that advocates for action were out to strangle economic growth. Charges of bad faith on both sides—and a heavy dose of partisan politics—saw to it that constructive conversation rarely occurred.

Many conservatives start out as climate skeptics for understandable reasons. To begin with, it's an issue that's long been associated with liberal Democrats. We're all skeptical about issues presented by leaders with whom we normally disagree. Secondly, conservatives naturally insist on extensive evidence when a claim seems to justify more government action.

But one of the hallmarks of modern conservatism is to try to see the world as it is, not as one hopes it would be. Skeptics who make their decisions based on the best available information have long said they would reconsider their conclusions as the facts dictate. And many of them are concluding that the planet is warming in ways that outpace its natural rhythms. In a recent University of Texas poll, 70% of Americans, and 53% of Republicans, accepted the reality of climate change. This is not just a function of the summer's brutal heat.

In a 2011 study, funded in part by the climate-skeptical industrialists David and Charles Koch, University of California, Berkeley physicist Richard Muller (also a climate skeptic) confirmed that temperatures have been climbing over the past five decades. His conclusion: "You should not be a skeptic, at least not any longer."

We'll have a much better shot at developing solutions to our climate and energy problems that are good for our economy if leaders from across the political spectrum get re-engaged in the debate. It is time for conservatives to compete with liberals to devise the best, most cost-effective climate solutions. Solving this challenge will require all of us.

Mr. Krupp is president of the Environmental Defense Fund and co-author of "Earth: The Sequel" (W.W. Norton, 2008).

November Units:

What do Our Members Think--- Important Discussion Topic for November Units--

The last two years have been very important for the St. Louis League. Our increased visibility through the Voters Guide brought us more opportunities and a lot to think about. Could you describe the central mission of our league to someone who asked you to do so in three sentences or less?

What IS the heart of our mission? What are the most important things we do? How can we attract new members and grow to a league of 500-1,000 in the next few years? How can we get more individuals, organizations and businesses to become “friends of the St. Louis league” and financially support our work? What are our education and advocacy priorities?

With the election over, we will have a chance to hear what you think about this very important topic as we catch our breath and work for our future.

Please attend a unit meeting in November. If you can't attend your own, go to another more conveniently scheduled one. Make it your business to bring another member or two who don't usually attend. Think about what our League can accomplish. Do we want to work on election reforms? There will be a new Missouri Secretary of State in January. Do we want to work to get rid of the changes that Citizens United brought-- floods of money into campaigns with unidentified donors? The growing partisanship that means little cooperation in both Congress and state and local government? Continuing the fight against voter suppression? Advancing our program positions? Which ones?

Help us shape our future. Kathleen Farrell

U N I T S

Chesterfield/Creve Coeur Unit meeting topic will be “Ten Things to Learn about ALEC, American Legislative Exchange Council” and how it impacts our legislation in Missouri. We will discuss the Mission of the League after this presentation.

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, November 14th

9:30 am

Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane

314.434.5116

Leader: Eve Golden 314.469.9985

ST LOUIS CITY

Saturday, November 10th

10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington

Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert 314.925.8251

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, November 13th

9:30 am

HOME of CAROL PORTMAN

155 N. Hanley (Hanley & Pershing)

Leader: Carol Portman 314.726.3269

WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, November 14th

9:30 am

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF WEBSTER GROVES UCC

10 W. Lockwood , Webster Groves

Leader: K Wentzien

314.961.0894 or 314.805.6950(cell)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The IR Committee will meet on Friday, November 9th at 10am, at the St Louis County Library Headquarters at Clayton Rd. and Lindbergh Blvd. We hope our topic - UN Women - will be of interest to many of you.

Judith Smart, IR Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the EQ Committee will be Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm at the League Office. We will be organizing for the 2012-2013 year. Dessert will be provided. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle (mcroyle@wustl.edu or 314-395-7876) with suggestions or questions. Anyone interested in natural resources, environmental issues: air, water, soil, land use, pollution prevention, food safety, sustainability, conservation are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE



Please join the Health Care Committee on Thursday, November 15th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church (11155 Clayton Rd. 63131). We will be looking at another phase of implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act through expansion of Medicaid. Our state will need to take action and we would like to be well informed as this process moves along. If you are interested, but cannot attend please contact Dianne about your interest. Phone: 314.439.9511 or email: dmodrell@sbcglobal.net.

Dianne Modrell, Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will not be meeting in November or December. Please watch for the January meeting date in the December ILR.

Marty Ott, chair



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SPEAKERS BUREAU



One of the most effective ways to demonstrate the League's commitment to promote and encourage an educated, informed electorate is through the work done by members who volunteer to fill assignments for the Speakers Bureau.

So far 40 requests for speakers have been covered. Requests have come from such diverse groups and organizations as a Girl Scout troop, nursing homes, a sorority alumnae reunion, an Ethical Society adult class and a PEO chapter.

Many thanks to these members who have volunteered to attend the meetings and share information about ballot issues and the importance of voting: Alfreda Brown, Kathleen Farrell, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Mary Beth Reynolds, and K Wentzien.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Once again the League will be one of the organizations that will staff the St. Louis County Parks Winter Wonderland held at Tilles Park. This is a beautiful display so be sure to let all your friends know about it and what night League volunteers will be working.

We will work the evening of Monday, December 10th. We will need 6 volunteers at all times and will have two shifts from 5:00-7:30 p.m. and from 7:30-10:00 p.m.

For donating our time, the League of Women Voters Information Service will receive a check for \$500.

It can be wet—it can be cold so dress warmly—and it is a fun event! Please call Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator at 314.968.3609 or email at IMBJH@charter.net to let her know when you would like to volunteer and we do thank you for your help.

As you leave, you get to drive through the park to enjoy this great display!

Barbara Elbrecht, Chair



BOOKS FOR KIDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At our Holiday Luncheon on December 8th, we will again help the children in the St Louis community have a happier holiday with a new book! Members are asked to bring a new book for a child ages newborn—17years old. The families are being served by Circle of Concern in the Valley Park area and 100 Neediest Cases for the entire St Louis area. Parents are allowed to shop for these gifts, so wrapping is discouraged.



MFH
MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH
Health Summit 2012

MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH
314.345.5500

Sheraton Westport-Lakeside Chalet
191 Westport Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63146

Monday December 3, 2012 at 12:00 PM CST
-to-
Tuesday December 4, 2012 at 4:30 PM CST

Improving a community's health requires sustained commitment and strong partnerships that draw on strengths across the entire community. When all sectors of a community – business, health, schools, faith, government and nonprofits – come together, the outcome is solutions that work for everyone and create positive, lasting change. This goal provides the framework for the 2012 MFH Health Summit “Community Solutions. Community Change”. The full list of keynoters, session topics and speakers who will address this issue will be posted on the MFH website at www.mffh.org/healthsummit. Check back often to view the updated conference agenda. Register only or call the Missouri Foundation for Health at 314.345.5500

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Orlando Gardens 8352 Watson Rd,
63119

Buffet with Vegetarian Meals Available
(Please call to reserve)

Cost \$ 20.00

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Social time 11:30

Luncheon 12:00

Program 1:00

Our Speaker is

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan

NAME(S) _____

PHONE/email _____

Number of reservations _____

Amount included _____

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters STL and mail this RSVP with
payment to LWV of St Louis, 8706 Manchester Rd, Ste. 104, 63144

**Books for Kids
newborn - 17yrs
Circle of Concern
100 Neediest Cases**

MEMORIALS

Back in the late 1960's, once in a while, a gentleman would show up at a League membership meeting. He came because he wished to discuss some particular subject on the agenda. You knew that he read the local League Bulletin because he was knowledgeable about what was happening in the League. He said that he was a League member. That was before integration; males were not yet eligible for full League membership. I believe that he was an associate member.

Subsequently, I met this gentleman at other events. His name was Larry Carp. Then in the late 1970's the League changed its national bylaws to include men and women in its membership. I wondered why I no longer saw Larry Carp around. When I met him one day, I commented that I didn't see his name on the League membership list and that we had officially opened up membership to men. And he remarked, "I know, I made my statement. It is no longer necessary for me to be a member."

I am sharing this story because I just read that Larry Carp died at age 86. The headline for an article described him as a lawyer, diplomat and a playwright. In his long and distinguished career, he held positions at the United Nations and the state department. He was a commissioner and vice chair of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. He worked in many areas of League interest. In retrospect, I realize that the League missed many opportunities where it could have benefitted from his expertise.

Sydell Shayer



South Carolina voters were the winners when a U.S. Federal District Court blocked implementation of the state's new voter photo identification law for the November 6th general election.

Texas: A federal court agreed that Texas' voter ID law was discriminatory and also struck down the state's curtailment of voter registration; Texas will appeal but not in time to affect this election

Ohio: Early voting has been restored and rules restricting voter registration drives have been struck down. The Ohio case is under appeal to the Federal Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit under expedited review.

In **Pennsylvania**, a state judge initially upheld a law passed by Republicans that required strict photographic identification for voting. But in September the state's Supreme Court ordered him to hold more hearings focused on the question of whether enough had been done to ensure "liberal access" to the picture ID cards or alternatives. In October, the lower court judge delayed full implementation of the law until after the Nov. 6 elections. He ruled that voters in Pennsylvania could be asked to produce the newly required photo IDs, but that they could vote without them.

From the *New York Times*, October 12, 2012

MEMORIALS



Co-President Linda McDaniel participated in a panel at Saint Louis University Oct 16, "How to be a Smart Voter: Educate Yourself on Issues Affecting Women and Families in 2012" at the Gruenberg Society's Fall 2012 meeting.



TRIBUTE

Olivia McKinney, a League member since 1965, recently lost her husband, Harvey. Olivia has been an active member, assisting with membership and other areas. We extend our condolences to Olivia and the family. We received a contribution in memory of **Harvey McKinney**, from Betty Ann Gilbert to LWV St. Louis.

Adelaide Schlafly, died recently. She was a longtime League member, joining the St. Louis City League well over 50 years ago. Adelaide was an active member of the community, belonging to and serving on the boards of many of the cultural and social service agencies in the area. Adelaide, along with her husband, Daniel Schlafly, one time member of the St. Louis University Board of Trustees and the St. Louis City Board of Education, supported ideas and programs well ahead of their time. One of their sons, Tom Schlafly, influenced by his mother I suspect, provided the League with the venue for one of our mini-fundraisers, a performance of the Court House Steps at the Schlafly Brewery

We, as League members, think of ourselves as reasoned, informed and creative. Adelaide Schlafly exemplified these qualities. *S. Shayer*

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The League office is extremely busy at this time regarding November 6th election and election related activities – voters’ guides, candidate forums, speaker’s bureau, and voter registrations. Thanks to our many volunteers who are doing so many extra tasks to ensure the voters have information available to them. There are many tasks and we are always looking for a few good men and women to meet our needs. Dedicated volunteers since the last newsletter include Stephen Aylward, Brenda Banjak, Mary K. Brown, Mary Ellen Brucker, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney, Verna & Clyde Creel, Brenda Ellis, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Martha Rodriguez, Catherine Stenger and K Wentzien. If you have a few extra free hours you can devote to the League, we have many opportunities available for all skill levels.

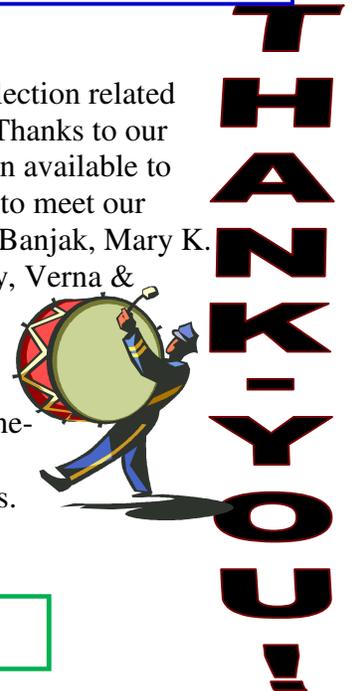
Please contact Anna Mennerick at the League office 314.961.6869 to offer your services.

Julie Behrens, Staff

From the Executive Director’s Desk - Anna Mennerick

Wow! This has been a very exciting election season, my first presidential election with the League of Women Voters. A sincere thank you to Julie, Kathleen, and Linda along with many others who have helped me personally and made this a successful group effort. We hear, daily, the gratitude expressed by citizens who are committed to voting and count on us for the information needed to exercise that right and responsibility.

I look forward to our non-election activities this fall . . . onward and upward!





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SAINT LOUIS, MO 63144

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



No Cost Fundraising Opportunity

Attention *Schnucks* Shoppers



Schnucks will donate up to 3% of your purchases to the League's Information Service. (LWVIS)

It's as easy as 1 2 3

1. Pick up a *Schnucks* eScrip card at the customer service counter.
2. Activate the card by calling 800-931-6258. Say your charity is the LWVIS, Group # 500015391 or go to www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp and follow instructions.
3. Present your card to the cashier for scanning every time you shop at *Schnucks*.

The League benefits and it costs you nothing.

****Many League members are participating in this no cost fundraiser. We hope you will add your name to this list. We receive a check monthly and it requires no soliciting. There is no easier way for you to help the League budget. Join today!

