

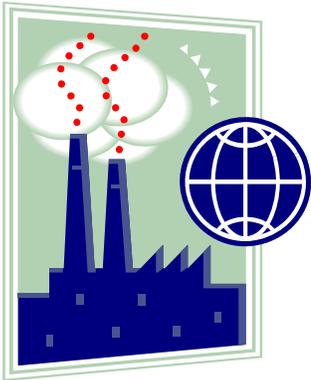


# WHERE THE LEAGUE STANDS – IMPORTANT ISSUES!!!

## THE ENVIRONMENT: COAL ASH

This article continues the presentation of background information on Sustainability. Coal ash is a byproduct from coal combustion and is created when coal is burned to generate energy. It is what is left after burning of coal to generate electricity. It includes boiler slag, scrubber sludge, fly ash and bottom ash. Worldwide coal fired power plants are the major producers of coal ash. Some components of coal ash are re-used in such products as concrete, but there is still considerable material that must still be isolated and stored to prevent pollution. Coal ash contains heavy metals and toxins such as arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium and thallium (and others) that are harmful to human health and the environment.

These toxins can contaminate ground and surface waters. Airborne fly ash is a dangerous pollutant causing many health problems. Another fly ash component of some concern is lime. Lime chemical reacts with water to form calcium hydroxide giving fly ash a pH somewhere between 10 and 12, a medium to strong base. Living beings (humans, animals, plants, fungus etc) cannot tolerate extremes in pH so that this alkaline pH can be just as damaging as acid rain to all living creatures. Failure to contain coal ash properly can lead to catastrophic problems. This was demonstrated with a coal ash spill in Tennessee in 2008 generated over one billion dollars in damages.



AmerenUE is proposing to site a 400 acre 100 foot tall coal ash waste project on 1100 acres of the Missouri River bottomland. This land is on the floodplain of the Missouri River and would store coal combustion waste from the Labadie power plant as well as other plants. The Missouri River provides drinking water to St Charles and St. Louis Counties. The Labadie Environmental Organization, <http://www.leomo.info/>, has been formed in response to this proposal. EPA, which previously did not regulate coal ash, is in the process of establishing the Coal Ash Rule which would regulate coal ash as a hazardous material. A Coal Ash Rule Comment Period was recently concluded.

The Habitat for Humanity Third Phase Project located in North Saint Louis this year was stopped when it was determined that the property to be used was contaminated with coal ash. This property must be mitigated with the remove of the surface soil prior to the building of homes.

By taking small steps to conserve energy (turning out lights when you leave the room), we can reduce the need for additional coal powered plants and reduce the generation of coal ash.

*Mickey Croyle, EQ Chair*

## THE LEAGUE AT WORK

### ***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](mailto:dkbkmk01@swbell.net) or call 314.533.3972.

# **COMMITTEES AT WORK**



## **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE**

The League of Women Voters Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, January 13 at Cape Albeon at 10:30 a.m. in the private dining room. We will be discussing the Affordable Health Care Act signed by the president. There still seems to be much discussion and confusion surrounding our understanding and the League's position.

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**

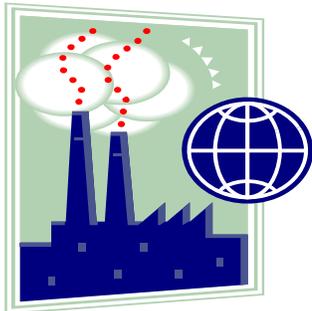
The International Relations Committee will meet on Friday, January 14 at 10 a.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. Our study topic is China. All are welcome to attend.



*Judith Smart, Chair*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Committee will be Tuesday, January 11 at the League Office at 5:30 pm. Dessert will be provided. The Topic for this year is Environmental Quality and Sustainability. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle ([mcroyle@wustl.edu](mailto: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 LWVSTL Education Committee met on November 20<sup>th</sup> and again on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We are off to a good start with preparing for the national study, the Federal Role in Public Education. The study will focus on upon three major areas:

- Equity (which includes ESEA funding)
- The Core Standards and Assessment (National Curriculum)
- Historical development of the Federal Government in Public Education

The timeline has been established to receive the study materials by March or April, study the proposed consensus questions beginning in May with local completion by November, 2011. At our meeting on December 11, some members who critiqued websites of organizations addressing the Federal Role in Education shared their findings. In addition 6 Chapters of "Death and Life of the Great American School System" by Diane Ravitch were reviewed and discussed by those in attendance. Another recommended book



for reading is Linda Darling Hammond's "The Flat World and Education" How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future.

Our next meeting will be on January 15, 2011 at 9:30 am at the League Office.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or planning to attend in January please let me know. In case of inclement weather and cancellation, you will be notified.

*Marty Ott, Chair*

314.434.0330 martyott@06@yahoo.com

## **Unit Meetings: Program Planning**

### **UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON**

Tuesday, January 11  
9:15 a.m. coffee  
9:30 a.m. meeting

### **HOME OF ELISE JOERGER**

7136 Kingsbury  
314.725.4829  
Leader: Carol Portman  
314.726.3269

Directions North on Big Bend, 1<sup>st</sup> stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2<sup>nd</sup> block on left.

### **WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD**

Wednesday, Jan 12  
9:30 a.m. meeting

### **HOME OF Mary PARKER**

307 Forest Ave.  
314.962.9250  
Leader: Mary Long, 314.849.7045

.Directions: Big Bend to Edgar, south on Edgar to Jackson, left on Selma, a short block to Forest Ave., right on Forest.

### **CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR**

Thursday Jan 13th  
9:30 a.m. meeting  
Noon salad lunch

### **HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER**

709 Champeix Lane  
314.434.5116  
Leader: Marion Stuvland  
636.391.7589

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

### **WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD**

Thursday, Jan 13th  
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, Jan 8th  
10:30 a.m.

### **TRINITY CHURCH**

Euclid and Washington  
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert  
314.773.8719

The City Unit will meet on Saturday, January 8th to review local League positions. Those include our support of St. Louis City revitalization, which is particularly timely given the current debate over the Ball

Park Village project and City budget problems. Other positions include our support of the city revision for reducing the size of the Board of Aldermen. All are welcome to join our lively group to discuss these timely issues over hot tea and coffee and some healthy post holiday 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.

## **CIVILITY PROJECT**

**Controversial  
Civil Issues  
Conversations**

**February 5<sup>th</sup>  
& February 26<sup>th</sup>  
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.**

**Location: St. Louis Community College at Forest Park**

**Cost: \$40 for both sessions, including materials and refreshments**

**R.S.V.P. to [league@lwwstl.org](mailto:league@lwwstl.org) or 314.961.6869**

**More information available at the website [www.lwwstl.org](http://www.lwwstl.org)**

## **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](http://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.*

\*\*\*\*Thirty 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!

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

2010 was an extremely busy and rewarding year for our volunteers. Closing out the year we want to thank all our volunteers who assisted the office staff with various tasks. We are looking forward to working with everyone in 2011. Since our latest edition thanks go to Brenda Banjak, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark Becky Clausen, Sue Dellbringge, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Debby Howard, Pat Jones, Katharine Kilpatric, Mary Long, Linda McDaniel, Tom Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, and Patti Walley. If we have omitted anyone's name it was strictly an oversight. Please let us know. Best wishes for 2011.

*Julie Behrens, Staff*

## TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

Happy Birthday to Sydell & Larry Shayer from Linda McDaniel to LWV St. Louis.

Special thanks to Kathleen Farrell and Pat Jones from Linda McDaniel to LWV St. Louis.

In memory of Becky Clausen's mother and Marjorie Reinhart from Linda McDaniel to LWV St. Louis.

In memory of Selma Schlafman from Emma Lee Chilton to LWV St. Louis.

In memory of Selma Schlafman from David Robbins to LWV Information Service.

### 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.

#### *SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION*

### YOUR AD HERE

Entrepreneurial League Members can advertise products or services here.

Ad revenue helps underwrite this vital source of member communication.

[WWW.MARYKAY.COM/JANICEDAHL](http://WWW.MARYKAY.COM/JANICEDAHL) ♦ [JANICEDAHL@MARYKAY.COM](mailto:JANICEDAHL@MARYKAY.COM)

314/351-6472



Gifts for Your Valentines Sweetheart & Those Close to Your Heart.

Look fabulous for Spring with a new look!

Kick those Winter Blahs!

**FREE SKIN CARE CONSULTATION & MAKEOVERS**

**Janice Dahl, Beauty Consultant**

*How old you are is your business. How old you look is mine.*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS – Anna Mennerick**

A new year, a fresh start, the next 90 years of the League begins now, January 2011. What a great foundation we have under us. This new year offers us the opportunity to build on that foundation and move St. Louis, Missouri and the United States toward the goal of good government. We are already poised to provide training in civility, protect voter access, and promote campaign finance reform.

Be a part of this effort, not only with your membership and financial support, but add your voice and time in 2011. Call your new legislators, let them know what is important to you. Need help with how to start? We have resources available to you. Lend your time and talents to the work of the League office. Share a skill or develop a new one. And there is no better way to get excited about the League than to attend the Missouri Convention in Kansas City on May 21st. Put it on your calendar now for energizing camaraderie. It is going to be a great year for the League, be a part of it!

**Join Us for “Shadowlands” the Annual Theatre Party Event,  
February 5<sup>th</sup>**

We are excited to announce this year’s Annual Theater Party Event and are looking forward to your support. This year we are presenting the Mustard Seed Theatre’s production of *Shadowlands* by William Nicholson. The play explores the unlikely love story between Oxford professor and author C.S. Lewis and American poet Joy Gresham.

The play is much more than a Goodbye Mr. Chips-style tearjerker about Gresham’s affliction with cancer and eventual death.

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.



Requests from the community for our services come year-round – not just at election time. The League brings nonpartisan information to voters, and works to empower an active electorate in the St. Louis region. That is why your support of the Annual Theatre Party is critical to sustain the League’s work throughout the community. Join us at the Party!

Patti Walley, Theatre Party Chair and Kathleen Farrell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

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.

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***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 4<sup>th</sup>!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship level: \_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address to send this receipt to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

