



IN LEAGUE REPORTER
 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF METRO ST LOUIS
 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104,
 St Louis, MO 63144 314.961.6869 league@lwwstl.org
 www.facebook.com/lwwstl
www.lwwstl.org @LWVSTL
MARCH 2016


High School Student Election Judge Program

The St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners is seeking high school students who are interested in assisting election judges on Election Day. Under the High School Student Election Judge Program, students can participate in the program if they are 15 years old and are in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades of high school. Students, 15 years of age, can earn community service hours for training and working on election day. Students, 16 and 17 years of age, will be compensated for their service. Students are nominated by their high schools to participate in the program. Students will receive training prior to receiving their poll assignment and will work in a non-partisan capacity. Election Day hours are 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

For additional information, contact Cathy Enz, High School Student Election Judge Coordinator, 314.615. 1866, or CENZ@stlouisco.com

THE SUCCESS OF OUR THIRD ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT DEPENDS ON YOU

We have a Great Location, Easy Parking:
 First Congregational Church, 10 Lockwood, Webster Groves, 63119
 Terrific MC, Varied Categories, and Snacks.



The price is right--\$25 per person includes snacks, games, raffles and Trivia! All we need is YOU to make the event a complete **SUCCESS!**

- Round up 9 friends and buy a table (\$250)
- Buy a table and host friends you haven't met yet (\$250)
- Buy ticket(s), bring a few friends and make some new ones (\$25-225)
- Sponsor a round - place your name/logo on the answer sheet; it will be projected on the screen and announced the night of the event. Publicity for you, support for us (\$150)
- Need more information to decide which is right for you? Call Anna Mennerick at the League Office, 314.961.6869 for registration, sponsorships, or [volunteer opportunities](#) or go online at www.lwwstl.org.

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Did You Know?? “In the early days of our republic, women were essential to the economic and social development of our country. In French St. Louis, women owned businesses, signed contracts, inherited property and could divorce their husbands. However, by the 1850s, women had been relegated to the roles of wife, mother and housekeeper, all under the legal control of husband or father.

In 1875, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that voting by women was a states’ rights issue, not a privilege of citizenship. So the line was drawn, with most churches, businesses and the government on one side and the women of the United States on the other side. In 1878, the Susan B Anthony amendment was introduced.

“The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” It Failed. That was in 1878. We still have not passed the Equal Rights Amendment in 2016. (pp.17-32) from **The Golden Lane, How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History**, by Margot McMillen.

In the months ahead, more of the history of the suffragettes in Missouri and the country will appear in this feature.



FROM THE PRESIDENTS: Who Speaks for the People?

It is the best of times and the worst of times. On the national level, presidential candidates are presenting very different views of what our government should be and what we as a country should believe. Some of them are also behaving in ways that we would not tolerate in our workplaces and homes. In Jefferson City our representatives deny that there is any relationship between lobbyists' money and gifts and their decisions. They say that there isn't a problem. But the same legislators mistrust those who exercise their right to vote so much that they ask us to spend over \$16 million over three years to root out the voter "fraud" that no one can demonstrate exists. Our communities need more support for our schools, repairs for our crumbling infrastructure, better resources for the mentally ill, and sensible gun regulation.

How can we make a difference? As we prepare for numerous candidate forums and work on the Voters Guide for our April local elections, we become aware of local tensions and the desperate financial situation of some of our schools and communities. We also learn about decent people who put themselves forward to run for office because they want to make their communities better places to live.

Our best chance is to shift the balance toward being the best of times doing everything we can to encourage our fellow citizens to vote and to protect their right to do so. We can do everything we can to provide clear and balanced information about the candidates and issues that face them. We must do everything we can to make every forum we moderate a model of civility and high level discussion of issues and values. We must treat everyone who calls our office asking for information or assistance with the utmost decency and respect.



Recruit a friend to join us in this important work by becoming a member of the League. Bring them to our Trivia Night or the Annual Meeting where the historian Elisabeth Perry will help us understand the history of women's political action after they got the vote. It will be a very busy election season and it starts now. Let's make it more the best of times.

Linda C. McDaniel
Co-Presidents

Kathleen Farrell

2015-2016 LWVMetroSTL BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents:

Linda C McDaniel
Kathleen Farrell

1st V.P.: Catherine Stenger

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Barbara Harris

Nancy Hutchins

Dianne Modrell

Gwen Moore

Sydell Shayer

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ILR Editor Nancy Miller

SPEAKERS BUREAU OPPORTUNITES

The LWVMetroSTL **Speakers Bureau** is up and running for 2016. Serving a wide variety of organizations and locations, the Bureau is responding to a need for civic education as well as information on upcoming election issues. If you would like to be a part of this Volunteer group, contact Nancy Miller at ilr@lwwstl.org or call 314.961.6869.

ELECTIONS 2016 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year League members register voters, hold elections for the St Louis Housing Authority, schools and unions and speak to various groups. You, the volunteers who make this happen, are needed especially as we enter the 2016 voting cycle. In the coming months, the Voters Guides, Speakers Bureau presentations, and Candidate forums need your assistance. Contact Barbara Harris today at volunteer@lwwstl.org. to see where you can be of service. Speakers are going out, forums are scheduled and the Guide is underway. Get involved today! For additional Information call the League office at 314.961.6869.



WATER QUALITY



LWVMetroSTL Board voted to support Prop S and Prop Y on the April 2016 Ballot



APRIL 5TH ELECTION METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT

MSD is both a stormwater and a wastewater utility and funds for each service are separate.

PROPOSITION S

Proposition S creates a uniform tax rate for **STORMWATER** services throughout MSD.

Presently stormwater services are funded by taxes and charges which differ within the District. A monthly \$0.24 service charge is paid by wastewater customers. A regulatory tax of \$0.0197 per \$100.00 assessed valuation is levied districtwide. Within the original borders of the District (roughly the area east of Interstate 270) a property tax is collected in St. Louis City and in subdistricts in the inner county. These taxes fund projects within the subdistricts. The subdistrict taxes range up to \$0.10 per \$100.00 assessed valuation. In the remainder of the District annexed in 1977, there is no income source to finance stormwater services beyond the minimum needed to comply with regulatory requirements. Proposition S eliminates the 24 cent fee and the subdistrict taxes and creates a districtwide stormwater tax of \$0.10 per \$100.00 assessed valuation. The \$0.0197 regulatory tax mentioned above would remain. The total proposed tax would be a uniform \$0.1197 per \$100.00 assessed valuation.

The tax would enable MSD to comply with all local, state and federal stormwater regulations, meet the operation and maintenance needs of the storm sewer system and begin a program of capital improvements.

PROPOSITION Y

Proposition Y authorizes MSD to issue \$900 million in revenue bonds for WASTEWATER.

Proposition Y provides for a \$900 million bond issue to fund the \$1.5 billion Capital Improvement and Replacement program for fiscal year (FY) 2017 through 2020. The bond issue would enable MSD to continue progress on the program to improve the wastewater system and to meet regulatory requirements. Among other projects, the program is designed to eliminate sewer overflows, prevent backups into buildings, and increase the capacity of the treatment plants. Without the use of bonds, rates would increase at a steeper rate. This chart shows what the monthly sewer bill would be for an average single family residence.

WASTEWATER FUNDING OPTIONS

| WITH BOND FINANCING | | | NO BOND FINANCING | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | <u>\$\$\$</u> | <u>% CHANGE.</u> | | <u>\$\$\$</u> | <u>% CHANGE</u> |
| FY16 | \$40.72 | 13.1 % | FY16 | \$40.72 | 13.1 % |
| FY17 | \$44.72 | 9.8 % | FY17 | \$44.72 | 9.8 % |
| FY18 | \$49.56 | 10.8 % | FY18 | \$73.80 | 65.0 % |
| FY19 | \$54.91 | 10.8 % | FY19 | \$83.46 | 13.1 % |
| FY20 | \$60.86 | 10.8% | FY20 | \$96.01 | 15.0 % |

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**NCJW, AAUW and League of Women Voters
head to Jefferson City!**



Whether you walk the halls of our state capitol on a regular basis or are just getting into progressive issues, we'd love to have you join us for our Lobby Day in Jefferson City!

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Where: There will be two pick up locations, one at the NCJW office, the other at the Bread Company parking lot in Chesterfield Valley.

Time: Please arrive at the NCJW office by 6:30am, for the second location please arrive by 7:00am. We will return from Jefferson City at 5pm.

Why: Our elected officials need to hear from us on issues we care about. Health care, reproductive rights, protection for victims of domestic violence and pay equity...what we say does make a difference.

For a \$36 donation, you get bus transportation, training, snacks, drinks, lunch and an opportunity to make a difference in our state.

To RSVP please call the NCJW office at 314-993-5181.



GREAT DECISIONS 2016.

The World Affairs Council of St Louis has announced its topics and dates for the international relations discussion series which will be held at the Ethical Society at noon in March and April. POC: Robert A Fischer, 314.727.9988.

- March 3: Middle East Alliances
- March 10: The Islamic State
- March 17: Kurdistan
- March 24: Migration
- March 31: The Koreas

- April 7: The United Nations
- April 14: Climate Change
- April 21: Cuba and the U.S.

World Health Organization (WHO) Criticized for Global Epidemic Responses

According to a *Reuters* news article in February on a United Nations report entitled *'Protecting Humanity from Future Health Crises'*, combined with a series of reviews by global health experts there has been sharp criticism of WHO's response to the devastating spread of Ebola. Now enters the Zika virus. 'If the WHO does not successfully reform, the next major pandemic will cause thousands of otherwise preventable deaths.' The UN suggests WHO be empowered and given the capacity for an effective emergency response. 'The high risk of major health crises is widely underestimated and ... the world's preparedness and capacity to respond is woefully insufficient.' WHO pledges reforms to provide emergency services more quickly.



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Our Nation -- and Missouri – Must Focus on Mental Health Issues

First Lady, Michelle Obama, addressed the need for new awareness of the signs of Mental Health issues. 'Sadly, too often, the stigma around mental health prevents people who need help from seeking it.' Beyond awareness – she encourages a willingness to have the 'tough conversations' with people who might be suffering. The First Lady announced earlier this year her intent to take on the complex issue of mental health as part of her **'Campaign to Change Direction.'**

Suicide is a major concern for mental health. This was reinforced by comments from Dr. Bart Andrews, the vice president of clinical practice and evaluations at Behavioral Health Response, a St. Louis-based nonprofit provides crisis intervention services. The Post-Dispatch reported this information in early February. Andrews said, "Improving people's comfort in talking about it [Mental Health] and hearing about it," is one of the biggest steps in suicide-prevention efforts." When threats are at hand, he suggests we might say things like, 'Thank you for telling me. I'm so glad you did. I really care about you. What can I do to help?'"



According to the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control, 1,017 people killed themselves in Missouri in 2014. There have been continual increases in these deaths since 2004 when suicides were at 715 persons. Missouri's 2013 rate of 13 deaths per 100,000 people exceeded the national rate. An alarming 2015 report from the Missouri Institute of Mental Health showed about 16 people died from suicide in Missouri per 100,000.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is [800-273-8255](tel:800-273-8255).

Another MO Hospital Closes. OUCH -- That Hurts!

The **Missouri Hospital Association** released its annual report which indicated some of the benefits hospitals bring to our state. Also reported* were losses experienced without the uncompensated care (increasing 469% from 2004-2014). Some of the billions of dollars might have been provided through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act if Missouri broadened Medicaid coverage to reduce the number of uninsured people. Hospitals, communities and individuals suffer until our low-income families have medical benefits and the uninsured population is reduced.

Here are some of the statistics given by *Herb Kuhn, CEO of the MO Hospital Association* though the *Community Investment Report*:

- \$1.3 billion total uncompensated care: \$723 million charity care, \$593 million bad debt
- \$1 billion total unpaid costs: \$577 million Medicare, \$477 million Medicaid
- \$81 million donations to local causes
- \$15 million free medical costs
- \$11.2 billion in economic activity

147,768 employees

Kuhn also suggests hospitals "help educate and train the health care workforce, offer clinic services and donate to local causes."

*Information based on *KC Business Journal* - Dora Grote, reporter

Dianne Modrell, Health Care Committee Chair

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LEAGUE CONTINUES TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS

Besides the St. Patrick Center and many naturalization ceremonies, League deputies have also registered voters at Cabane Branch City Library on N Union, and Friendly Temple Baptist Church on MLK Drive.

Barbara Harris and Catherine Stenger recently registered voters at the St. Patrick Center.

In February we celebrated our Executive Director,

Anna Mennerick's 8th Year with the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis.

CONGRATULATIONS!

ANNA!!

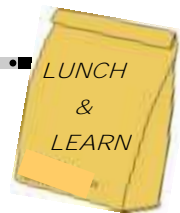


Jane Nettesheim, Board Sec. and new Membership Chair, raises a fork to Anna!

As part of the **League's Lunch and Learn program**, Amy Blouin, Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project, spoke to a group on Feb. 10, 2016 on the topic "**Invest in Missouri**".

The Mo. Budget Project advocates expanding Medicaid eligibility to improve the health of Missourians and save money for the state, as well as enacting a streamlined sales tax to strengthen state services and level the playing field for Missouri retailers.

The full report is available online at mobudget.org.



Saturday, March 12, 2016

Doors Open at 6:30, Trivia at 7

The League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis TRIVIA NIGHT

General Trivia

with some Politically Themed Questions

Mulligans

50/50 Raffle

Games

Event Sponsorship \$500

Round Sponsorships \$150

Cash Prize for

Highest Scoring Table

MC: Dan Dillon

Location:

First Congregational Church

10 W. Lockwood, 63119

Ticket Price \$25 per seat

Tables of 10

Soda, Water, & Snacks Provided

and/or Bring Your Own

Food & Drink

Information and Reservations:

Pat Jones

314-807-8346

patjones@lwvstl.org

Mail payment and the form below to
LWV Metro St. Louis, 8706 Manchester Rd, #104, St. Louis, MO 63144

Name (s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Register, Pay, get Directions and Print Flyers @ www.LWVSTL.org



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FEBRUARY UNITS DISCUSS LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING

Before the LWVMetroSTL Board meeting on February 24, the Board met as a unit to discuss LWVUS program planning. The results of all units:

- A consensus agreeing with question 1: Do you support the proposed program focus, Making Democracy Work, for the 2016-2018 biennium?
- We did not suggest a new program.
- Out of 12 Board members, 3 believed the report was too limited.
- We wished to add comments to the report: we agreed and reiterated the focus on voter rights and campaign finance reform. In addition we strongly felt the following issues important and want them to receive a degree of attention: health care, gun control, education and reproductive rights.
- Half of members participating in program planning wanted child care and early childhood intervention to receive some attention.

This report will be sent to LWVUS and be combined with reports from other local Leagues across the nation. This will become the basis of decisions at national convention in June.

Linda McDaniel, Kathleen Farrell
Co-Presidents

UNITS IN MARCH: UNIT CHOICE

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, March 8th
9:30 am
314.726.3269

HOME of CAROL PORTMAN

155 N. Hanley Hanley & Pershing
Leader: Carol Portman



WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, March 9th
9:30 am
314.961.0894 or 314.805.6950(cell)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEBSTER GROVES UCC

10 W. Lockwood , Webster Groves
Leader: K Wentzien

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, March 10th
9:30 am

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE

15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield
Leader: Eve Golden 314.469.9985

ST LOUIS CITY

Saturday, March 12th
10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Kathleen Farrell 314.773.2876

City Unit will hear an update on SLPS

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Speaker

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Coffee and Socializing, 8:45 a.m.

Business Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Program, 10:15 a.m. - 11:45

**“Voter Suppression” by Denise Lieberman,
Senior Attorney at Advancement Project, Washington University**

Denise Lieberman will explain how voter suppression is a strategy used to influence the election outcome. This method discourages and prohibits people from exercising their right to vote.

**Trinity Lutheran Church 14088 Clayton Road (At Clayton Road and 141),
Chesterfield, MO 63017**



The **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** will meet at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 19th at the League office. The topic for discussion is the newly reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now known as “Every Student Succeeds Act”, signed into law on December 10, 2015. Members will be sharing their research on current legislation before the Missouri House and Senate.

Please contact Marty Ott, Education Committee Chair, (martyott06@yahoo.com) if you plan to attend or wish to make a comment. Members and friends are welcome.

Marty Ott, Chair

The **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE** will meet on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:30 at the League Office.



Mickey Croyle, Chair

The **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE** will meet on Wednesday, March 16th , 10am-12noon., at Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church, 11155 Clayton Rd 63131.



Dianne Modrell, Chair

The **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** will meet on Thursday, March 3rd at 5:30 in the League office.

If you are interested in examining Missouri transportation policies and budget, contact Gwen at 314.874.0711 or gwenmoore@charter.net.

Gwen Moore, Chair

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Member:

Carol Kyser
4269 Washington Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63108-3033

Address Change:

Gloria Thompson
1220 Warren St. Apt. 502W
St Louis, MO 63106-4054



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TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

Contributions received in memory of Malcolm Bliss, Vivian Schmidt, & K Wentzien's sister
from Linda McDaniel.

VOLUNTEERS

The new year is up and running. The Presidential Preference Primary, April municipal elections, and Trivia Night are just around the corner. If you have some time to donate to the League we could certainly use the help. Please contact Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator. Her email address is:

volunteer@LWVstl.org

Our volunteers since our last newsletter include: Liz Aurbach, Brenda Banjak, Nancy Bowser, Stefany Brot, Mary Brown, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney, Mickey Croyle, Sue Dellbringge, Angie Dunlap, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Eve Golden, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Debby Howard, Nancy Hutchins, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Anna Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Dianne Modrell, Gwen Moore, Jane Nettesheim, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Janis Pupillo, Nancy Price, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, Catherine Stenger, Carol Teig, Billie Teneau, K Wentzien, Louise Wilkerson and Liz Wolkoff. This list includes the St. Louis board members. When you attend a board meeting, please remember to sign the volunteer book in the office so we have a record of our volunteers' hours. If you are a member of a League committee we would like to keep track of the time you spend on League activities. Please let the office know so we can add your name to our volunteer list. We appreciate your commitment to the League. If we neglected to list your name please let us know and we will thank you in the next newsletter.



Julie Behrens, Staff

From the Executive Director's Desk



CALLING ALL PIGGIES!

Thank you for stuffing your piggy banks with pennies and paper. Please bring your piggy, no matter how full, to the office, trivia night, unit meeting or other League event. The proceeds of this fundraiser will be divided between Metro St. Louis and Missouri. It is not too late to participate: change, cash and checks will be graciously accepted!

Anna Mennerick



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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SAINT LOUIS, MO 63144

MARCH 2016 CALENDAR

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Thurs. | March 3rd | 5:30pm | Transportation Committee | League Office |
| Thurs. | March 3rd | 7:00pm | Environmental Quality Committee | League Office |
| Tues | March 8th-Sat. March 12th | | UNIT MEETINGS TOPIC: STATE PLANNING | see p. 8 |
| Sat. | March 12th | 6:30-10pm | ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT | First Congregational Church Webster Groves |
| Tues. | March 15 | 6am-7pm | Presidential Primaries Election | Voting Precincts in Missouri |
| Wed. | March 16th | 10am-noon | Health Care Comm | Faith Presbyterian see p. 8 |
| Sat. | March 19th | 9:30am | Education Committee | League Office |
| Wed. | March 23rd | 6:00pm | Board Meeting | League Office |

PLANNING AHEAD

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tues. | April 5th | 6am-7pm | Municipal Elections | Voting Precincts in Missouri |
| Tues. | April 12 | 8:30-2pm | Equity Action Day AAUW | State Capitol, Jefferson City |
| Sat. | April 16 | 11:30 | Annual Meeting Luncheon | TBA |
| Thurs-Sat. | June 16-18 | | LWVUS Convention | Washington D.C. |

Sat. Sept. 3 GET OUT THE VOTE FESTIVAL ST LOUIS CENTRAL LIBRARY