



IN LEAGUE REPORTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
 8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
 314-961-6869
 www.lwvstl.org
 May, 2009

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

It is Show and Tell time. That is when you, the members, show up at the annual meeting and tell the board how you would like our League to be run. It is also an opportunity for guests to see the business side of the League. The annual meeting is designed to address four areas: board, budget, bylaws and program. You will elect members to the board, adopt a budget, and approve/suggest changes to our local program positions. Your ideas and input will be encouraged---as they are, informally, all year round. There will be no changes to the bylaws at this time.

Of course, the annual meeting is not all business. There will be a delicious luncheon, great camaraderie, and a dynamic speaker. Judge Jimmie Edwards, who works with juvenile offenders, will discuss the juvenile justice system in St. Louis.

So, HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! Sign up for the big event and come prepared by reading the nominating committee report, the budget and the suggested program changes on pages 7 and 8.

I have enjoyed these confidential little chats. These two years as president have enriched my life in ways I could not have imagined. Thank you for all your support and encouragement.

Doris Buzzell

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

Officers

Pres. Doris Buzzell
 1st V. P. Janice Dahl
 3rd V.P. Enid Tennebaum
 Sec'y. Mary Beth Reynolds
 Treas. Becky Clausen

Directors

Georgia Archibald
 Mary Ellen Brucker
 Marjorie Courtney
 Kathleen Farrell
 Eve Golden
 Katharine Kilpatric
 Sydell Shayer

Newsletter Editor--Joyce Guard

CALENDAR

Sat.-Sun.	May 2-3	MO State Convention (see MO Voter Mar/April Issue)	Jefferson City
Thurs.	May 7	10:00 AM Health Care Committee pg 2	Cape Albeon Ret. Com.
Fri.	May 8	10:00 AM International Relations Committee pg 2	County Library
Sat.	May 9	11:30 AM St. Louis Annual Meeting pg 6	Spazio-Westport
Tues.	May 12	5:30 PM Environmental Quality Committee pg 2	League Office
Fri.	May 15	IN LEAGUE REPORTER DEADLINE	
Sat.	May 30	10:30 PM City Unit – Trinity Church pg 2	Euclid & Washington



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations (IR) Committee will meet on May 8 at 10 a.m. in the County Library HQ, across the street from Plaza Frontenac. Everyone welcome.

Judith Smart, IR Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Environmental Quality Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the League office. Everyone welcome.

Nancy Bowser, Chair



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, May 7 in the private dining room at Cape Albeon. Our meeting will begin at 10am and will be over by noon. If you are interested in being a part of the Health Care Committee or need directions to Cape Albeon please contact Katharine Kilpatric at 636-861-7148.

Katharine Kilpatric, Chair



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will not meet in May. Look for next meeting date in the In League Reporter.

Marty Rulo, Chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The committee will not meet in May. Look for next meeting date in the In League Reporter.

Kathleen Farrell, Chair

CITY UNIT

The St. Louis City Unit will meet on Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity Church. Trinity Church is at the corners of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar. Topic: Challenges for the city and use of stimulus funds. Brunch will be served. Everyone welcome.

DEATH PENALTY UPDATE

In the MO Senate

For the first time ever, a bill, SCS/SB321, on the death penalty reached the floor of the senate. That's good news. The bill was limited in scope. It called for a commission to study of all aspects of the death penalty. The original bill included a moratorium on executions for the duration of the study. The sponsors agreed to the amendment, hoping that some progress would be made on eliminating some of the flaws in the death penalty system. But so far that is not to be. The opponents of the bill insisted that the only reason for the bill was to get closer to abolition of the death penalty. The supporters of the bill were reluctant to have a vote on the bill because they believed there were not enough votes to get the bill passed. The bill was put on the informal calendar. This leaves three options. The bill could be attached to another bill, it could be brought up again on the senate floor, or the bill will just die.

In the MO House

HB484, the moratorium on executions and a concurrent study of the death penalty was heard in the Public Safety Committee on April 7. An exonerated prisoner and a murder victim's father spoke plus others spoke on behalf of the bill. No action was taken. It is possible that the committee will take up the bill again.

In the U.S. Senate

Senator Russ Feingold's bill, the Federal Death Penalty Abolition Act of 2009 would put an immediate end to federal executions and forbid the use of the death penalty as a sentence for violations of federal law.

ACTION

League members should subscribe to the Missouri Legislative Bulletin, at no cost, which comes out via e-mail approximately every other week. You may have it mailed for a fee. It will give you updates and action opportunities on the death penalty and every other legislative bill the League is following.

Sydell Shayer, Chair

LWV – US!

That's the theme of the 2008-2010 LWVUS Nominating Committee. It means that the leadership of the LWV is us – League members just like you and me who are committed to insuring the continued success of our organization. The goals of this Nominating Committee are to promote that idea and to build a slate for 2010-2012 that reflects the values, concerns, and diversity of Leagues large and small across the country.

What can you do to help the Nominating Committee insure that the LWV leadership is us? Your most important contribution will be to act as our eyes and ears in the leadership search. We can't personally recruit everywhere so we're relying on members like you. Please make us aware of leaders in your area and nominate them for positions on the LWVUS Board or Nominating Committee. You can even nominate yourself!

The postmark deadline for nominations is September 30, 2009. A hard copy nomination form and an on-line form will be available on the website soon. For more information you can join the Nominating Committee discussion list on the LWVUS web site or email us at nominatingcommittee@lww.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Robbie Davis, Chair

LWVUS Nominating Committee

URL: <http://www.lwv.org/Nominate>

AT-RISK AMERICANS: THE UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED

Data from multiple sources agree that in 2007, 47 million Americans (15.6 percent of the total U.S. population) lacked any kind of health insurance coverage. When these numbers are adjusted for age (excluding those 65 years and older), the uninsured percentage of the population rises to 17.9 percent. Moreover, it is estimated that 25 million adults under age 65 were underinsured during 2007, despite having insurance all year. In total, 42 percent of all adults (86.7 million) were either uninsured or underinsured during 2007.

Putting a face on persons who were uninsured or underinsured during 2007 and 2008¹

Age: One of three people under age 65 were uninsured for some or all of 2007 and 2008; of the total uninsured population, 60.1 million were adults (between 19 and 64 years of age)

Duration: Among the underinsured/uninsured, 74.5 percent were uninsured for nine or more months and one-quarter were uninsured the entire 24 months

Employment status: 80 percent of individuals who were uninsured were in working families and only 16 percent were not in the labor force (due to disabilities, chronic illness, or serving as family caregivers)

Income: Nearly 60 percent were in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL: \$21,200/year for a family of four); 52 percent with incomes between 100 to 200 percent of FPL went without health insurance in 2007/2008

Racial and Ethnic origin: 55 percent of Hispanics/Latinos, 40.3 percent of African Americans and 34 percent of other racial or ethnic minorities had no health insurance in 2007/2008, compared to 25.8 percent of whites. While racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to be uninsured, whites accounted for 49.8 percent of the uninsured

Age breakdown: The likelihood of being uninsured declines with age; 49.5 percent of those 19 – 24 years old, 36.3 percent of those 25 – 44 years old, 32.5 percent of those 45 – 54 years old and 21.2 percent of those 55 – 64 years old were uninsured over this two-year time period. The 55- to 64-year-old age group consumes more health care on average than younger adults.

For all ethnic and racial groups, lower-income families and individuals were more likely to be uninsured than lower-income whites. This disparity continues even as incomes rise in all groups.

There is a marked increase in the number of adults having difficulty paying medical bills – the most visible consequence of the weakening in insurance coverage. In 2007, 41 percent of adults (72 million people) reported problems paying medical bills, faced bill collectors or were in debt for medical care, up from 34 percent or 58 million in 2005. The majority had insurance at the time these bills were incurred² – well in advance of the economic downturn.

By Janis McMillen

¹ All statistics above and below are from <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/americans-at-risk-findings.html>

² The statistics in this paragraph are from <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Testimonies/2009/Feb/Testimony-Insurance-Design-Matters-Underinsured-Trends-Health-and-Financial-Risks.aspx>

Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board member and LWVKS) is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.

QUICK FACTS ON HEALTH CARE COSTS

- ✓ Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- ✓ By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- ✓ Between 2005 – 2006, total health spending increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- ✓ Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic product from 2003 – 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017.
- ✓ Spending for home health care increased at a faster pace from 2005 – 2006 (9.9 percent) than any other category of health spending; however, its impact is limited because it accounts overall for only 2.5 percent of total health spending.
- ✓ Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.
- ✓ Between 2006 and 2007, premiums for health coverage offered by employers increased 6.1 percent, the fourth straight year of declines in the rate of premium growth, from a peak of 13.9 percent in 2003. Even so, this was more than twice the rate of growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- ✓ Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.
- ✓ Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list (without the original endnotes) is from “A Reporter's Toolkit: Health Care Costs” (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. The entire toolkit can be found at

http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp#keyfacts.

Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board member and LWVKS) is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.

Produced by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009



LWVSTL *Annual Meeting*

When: Saturday, May 9, 11:30-2:00

Where: Spazio @ Westport (314-576-0400)

12031 Lackland Road

Handicapped accessible, with ample parking.

Luncheon

followed by business portion of meeting

and speaker, **Judge Jimmie M. Edwards**

Circuit Judge, 22nd Judicial Court of Missouri

Topic: “Serving Youth, Reducing Juvenile Delinquency”

Lunch: Pot roast with vegetables, potatoes parmesan,
dessert, coffee and tea

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Honorable Jimmie M. Edwards was born in St. Louis. He was educated at St. Louis University and St. Louis University School of Law. He is married to Stacy M. Taylor. They have three children: Murphy, Ashley and John. Judge Edwards was appointed circuit judge in 1992 and retained in 1994 and 2000.

**Please return this portion with your check (payable to LWVSTL) to the League office:
8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104, St. Louis, Mo 63144**

I will be attending the Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 9, 11:30-2:00

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ Amount encl. (\$25/per person): _____

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers:

1st Vice President - Kathleen Farrell
2nd Vice President - Suzanne Kirkpatrick
Secretary – Mary Beth Reynolds

Board of Directors:

Pat Jones
Mary Long
Katharine Kilpatrick
Sydell Shayer
Marty Ott – one yr. term

Nominating Committee: Chair K. Wentzien, Betty Ann Gilbert, Judith Smart

As of this printing, the nominee for President has not been finalized. The committee will present this nomination “from the floor” at the May 9th Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Linda C. McDaniel, Nominating Committee Chair

PROGRAM PLANNING

The seven local program studies suggested at the unit meetings were reviewed and discussed.

It was decided that one program study would be recommended to the membership and the other six would be presented as non-recommended.

Recommended by the board of directors:

A study of the public transit system

Studies Not Recommended by the board of directors:

Property taxes
Juvenile justice system
Charter school oversight
Early childhood education
Air quality with emphasis on lead poisoning
Civics education

League of Women Voters of St. Louis 2009-2010 Proposed Budget											
						<u>2007-08 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007-08 BUDGET</u>	<u>2008-09 ACTUAL TO FEB. 24</u>	<u>2008-09 BUDGET</u>	<u>2009-10 PROPOSED BUDGET</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
INCOME											
DUES						\$ 18,725.00	\$ 17,300.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 17,300.00	\$ 18,200.00	
DEVELOPMENT											
Member Contributions						3,174.00	4,000.00	5,548.00	3,200.00	2,500.00	\$5,000 bequest in '08
Non-Member Contributions						345.00	450.00	90.00	375.00	375.00	
Campaign for the League						8,910.00	6,300.00	785.00	8,200.00	6,000.00	Needs follow-up
Tailgate and Book Sales						2,727.09		2,700.85	2,800.00	2,800.00	
Tributes						570.00	10,125.00	790.00	850.00	900.00	
Other fundraisers						5,510.00		2,167.00	6,300.00	9,830.00	
Total Development						21,236.09	20,875.00	12,080.85	21,725.00	22,405.00	
MEMBER MEETINGS											
Kick Off Meeting						1,220.00		1,186.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Annual Meeting						1,222.13		0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Holiday Meeting								881.00	1,200.00	1,000.00	
Recruitment & product								281.00	0.00	50.00	
Total - Local Meetings						2,442.13	3,500.00	2,348.00	3,700.00	3,550.00	
INTEREST											
						37.74	1,000.00	87.48	700.00	100.00	
TOTAL INCOME						\$ 42,440.96	\$ 42,675.00	\$ 16,676.33	\$ 43,425.00	\$ 44,255.00	
LWV PROPOSED BUDGET-PAGE 2											
						<u>2007-08 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007-08 BUDGET</u>	<u>2008-09 ACTUAL FEB. 24, 09</u>	<u>2008-09 BUDGET</u>	<u>2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET</u>	
EXPENSES											
OPERATING COSTS(Joint Office)						\$ 24,564.82	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 7,781.27	\$ 11,240.00	\$ 12,000.00	Rent/assessments up
PAYROLL								8,669.56	13,320.00	14,000.00	Likely to be up
BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE											
Board Materials/Resources						101.05		280.42	215.00	175.00	
Member recruitment & Retention								507.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Fund Raising											
Tailgate and Book Sale						166.36		310.34	250.00	300.00	
Fund Raising Other						2,122.26	1,888.00	1,800.00	1,600.00	1,500.00	
Advocacy											
Public Relations						250.00	300.00	507.00	350.00	350.00	
Publications/Position Support								20.00	325.00	325.00	
Website Development & Maintenance						246.51		0.00	280.00	280.00	
Coalition Support & Memberships								150.00	250.00	250.00	
						2,886.18	2,188.00	3,574.76	4,270.00	4,180.00	
MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS & AFFIL.											
National Convention/Council						50.00	4,162.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	Council Cancelled
State Convention/Council								0.00	1,650.00	500.00	
Kick Off Meeting						1,200.00		1,180.50	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Annual Meeting						1,375.00		0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Holiday Meeting								811.22	1,200.00	1,000.00	
Affiliations								150.00	250.00	250.00	
Other Meetings						361.13			725.00	725.00	
						2,986.13	4,162.00	4,641.72	6,325.00	4,975.00	
FINANCIAL SUPPORT											
National PMP						4,109.30		3,912.50	3,820.00	4,500.00	50/50 IS & LWV
State Pledge						4,717.49		1,071.00	4,600.00	4,600.00	Can't use IS for State
						8,826.79	8,800.00	4,983.50	8,420.00	9,100.00	
MISCELLANEOUS											
						40.00	25.00	0.00	100.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES						\$ 39,303.92	\$ 42,675.00	\$ 29,650.81	\$ 43,675.00	\$ 44,255.00	

OUR 21st ANNUAL THEATER PARTY

Our first production was “Black Nativity” at the Black Rep, my favorite. We had the largest attendance that first year, but made the least amount of money. But we saw the potential, and now 21 years later we have made this the biggest fundraiser for the Information Service except for some special grants that we receive from time to time.

This year’s event featured Prison Performing Arts, ex-prisoners reading excerpts from Shakespeare, original poems and telling personal stories. The venue was cabaret style, so the audience could partake of drinks and snacks during the show. One League member thought this theater party was our best ever.

We do emphasize the party part. Every theater party has an elegant reception. A special treat this year was listening to music from Shakespeare’s era played on the piano by Eve Golden, one of our local board members, during the reception.

The theater party is supported by sponsorships which, depending on the level, entitle the sponsors to two, four or six tickets. In addition, we sell individual tickets. The good part is that League members are very generous and loyal. A majority of the sponsors have supported the theater party since its inception. The not so good part is that the committee has not been very successful in reaching non League members. Another area where we could use improvement is for more individual League members to buy single tickets.

I am curious as to why more League members do not buy single tickets to the theater party. Is it because the publicity is inadequate, you are not interested, the timing is inconvenient, you think it would not be fun, or you have given to the League other ways.

It would help us a lot for planning in the future to know. Planning an event like this takes time and we would like to maximize our success. So, please feel free to contact me by e-mail – slshay@sbcglobal.net or phone – 314-434-5116.

Sydell Shayer, perennial theater party committee member and sometimes chair

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*.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

Do you remember who introduced you to the League? When I have asked many of you what first attracted you to the League of Women Voters the answer was not a concept, it was a person. I was expecting answers about policy or passion and you responded with memories of individuals for whom the League was something important shared with you.

What is your League story? What and who keep you involved in this organization? Thirty years from now, who will say that you were the reason he or she joined the League? We can expand our web presence and radio spots, but the most compelling invitation comes from you. Our society is filled with technology and media, and yet it seems that this organization grows because you are telling your personal story -- amazing. Keep up the good work.

Anna Mennerick

'Good Hostesses, Smart Discussion and About 10 Good Friends' and it will be a WINNER!

Capitalizing on what the League does best – intelligent discussion – the Development Committee is trying out a new concept for raising funds in support of the organization. And we need some League members to make it work.

Here's how it works:

1. Volunteer to host/hostess a party (dinner or otherwise but it has to be good!) You can team up with another League member to do this if you want.
 - a. You cover the cost of the food.
 - b. You buy one fun or nice door prize.
 - c. The League will provide you with the discussion materials – DVD movie or written materials (or you can do it if you prefer a different topic)
 - d. The League will provide you with the membership materials.
2. Invite at least 10 friends who are not League members but who like intelligent discussion. They make a \$20 donation to come to your party.
3. You have dinner or appetizers and fun.
 - a. Start the program
 - b. Play the DVD/movie (history, i.e. Iron Jawed Angels, or topical such as healthcare)
 - c. Discussion; panel on topic or led by a leader (much like our Unit concept)
 - d. Tell them about the League (no hard membership push, please)
4. Our goal is 20 parties totaling \$4,000 to fund the League.
 - a. The far greater benefit is the greater knowledge about our SMART discussions – the thing we love about the League!
 - b. And perhaps the growth in membership!

If you are interested in being a hostess, call or email Janice Dahl @ 314-503-7580 or jdahl@anchormanagement.net.

Janice Dahl, 1st Vice President

BOOK SALE

After a major book sale ends we have been invited to take as many leftover books as we want for our book sale in October. The book sale will be held April 22-26 at the Computer USA building next to Toys R US on Lindbergh just south of I 44. The sale ends at 5 o'clock on Sunday, April 26.

We need a lot of people to come and pack up the books and load them into their SUVs and car trunks and bring them to Barbara Elbrecht's garage to be kept for our book sale in October.

Please bring husbands and sons who can carry the boxes of books to the cars and then to Barbara's garage.

Of course, you may come early and buy some books before the sale ends promptly at 5:00.

PLEASE – give Barbara a call (314-962-2821) and let her know you can help. We made \$700 last year in our sale and would like to do better this year.

Barbara Elbrecht, Chair

“LEAGUE IN THE LOOP” TAILGATE SALE

Spring has arrived and the days will fly by and it will be Labor Day and time for our “League in the Loop” Tailgate Sale. We need lots of times for our booth so check those closets and basements and see what you can donate. Call Elise at 314-725-4829 or Barbara at 314-962-2821 and arrange a time to bring items by. Thanks for your help with this fundraiser for the League.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome to our new members:

Angie Dunlap
Anna & Thomas Mennerick
Debi Salberg
Helen Schlarman

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In honor of Norma Jean Downey from Sydell Shayer to LWV Information Service. Get well soon.