



METRO NEWS

Spring 2015

Vol. 37, No.2

LWVIS

Report to the Community

Thanks to many dedicated League members day after day, year after year, since 1919 the League of Women Voters in St. Louis has provided vital voter education to the public.

This report focuses on our activities in the 2014 election year - April 2015. For more information visit our website: www.lwvstl.org or call the League office: 314 961-6869

VOTERS GUIDE PROJECT

Bringing Voter Information to St. Louis City and St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson, Warren, Lincoln and Franklin Counties

• We produced three Voters Guides in 2014-15:
August 2014 Primary and special election candidates, statewide and local ballot issue elections. Distributed 10,000 copies.

November 2014 General election candidates, statewide and local ballot issue elections. Record number of paper guides distributed --- special 2,300 request from African American churches for a total of 12,300. Record number of web hits for Vote411.org on LWVSTL website

April 2015 Over 900 candidates and 89 ballot issues. Special 1,800 request from African American churches. Distributed 10,000 copies.

We renewed our working contract with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The Post reported that they had no content complaints after the August and November elections and that they would renew their contract with E the People, the vendor for Vote411.org.

Kathleen Farrell, Voter Service

SERVING VOTERS

VOTERS GUIDES: covering more than 1,500 candidates and dozens of issues; 43,000 copies distributed

VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS: more than 75

CANDIDATES' FORUMS: 21

SPEAKERS BUREAU: 14 groups

METRO NEWS: quarterly, including local elections voters guides

RESTRUCTURING of LEAGUE APPROVED!

League members gathered at the Center of Clayton in mid-February to consider the proposed restructuring of the organization. The League of Women Voters Information Service was restructured to be the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, a member based organization.

The League of Women Voters of St. Louis will be inactive, meeting once a year; governing will be conducted by the officers and directors. The Metro will be incorporated as a 501c3, including information services and advocacy. The advocacy is capped at 20% of the budget, an amount the St. Louis LWV has not exceeded.

Leagues in other states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota and California have also adopted these changes. This will allow the Metro League to present a total financial picture of the League.

The next step in the process will be the filing of the changes with the appropriate Missouri State offices.

One of the first visible differences will be the tax deductible status of most, if not all of membership dues. Funds specifically donated for lobbying activities will not be tax deductible.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of Metro St. Louis
Annual Theatre Party coming this fall see p.5

PRESIDENTS' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

As we began the 2014-15 year, we knew that we would be busy working on statewide ballot issues, ramping up our Speakers Bureau, and continuing our outreach efforts, but we never anticipated how much our activities would change with a contentious St. Louis County Executive election and the events in Ferguson.

Dr. Patricia Dowden-White taught us what the League accomplished in advancing civil rights in St. Louis in the 20's, 30's and 40's with African American members and as the year went on we found ourselves together again, working with partners in under-served communities to encourage political participation. Encouraging people to be informed voters to make real change in their communities became front and center.

We were barely home from the June LWVUS convention in Dallas and moving forward from our new board retreat when we found ourselves embarking on the most ambitious education and advocacy program we had experienced in years.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Restructuring which resulted in the new League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis
 - Holding the only candidate forum for the August St Louis County Executive primary race
 - Distribution of over 20,000 state wide ballot issues explanations, & over 5,000 ballot issue advocacy materials
 - Record number of candidate forums
 - Record number of voter registration events
 - Successful grant applications to fund government participation programs
 - Three Voters Guides distributed to over 700,000 citizens
 - Record number of website visits
 - Radio ads opposing the November fake Early Voting statewide ballot issue
 - Two successful fundraisers
 - Partnerships with the Urban League, East West Gateway and other organizations
- Unit meetings and membership events on early voting, campaign finance, school transfers and more!

We did our best to answer every request for information and voter service.

We are very grateful to Anna Mennerick and Julie Behrens who go beyond the call of duty to support our activities, offer their good sense, and be the center of our organization. We are astounded by the generous support and efforts of our volunteers and board members who answer the call to serve.

**Kathleen Farrell and Linda McDaniel, Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis**

LWV of Metro St. Louis**LEADERSHIP 2015-2017**

Members at the April 25 Annual Meeting elected the following slate to serve 2 year terms, 2015-2017:

Officers:

Linda McDaniel, Co-president
Kathleen Farrell, Co-president
Catherine Stenger, 1st Vice-President
Jane Nettessheim, Secretary
Becky Clausen, Treasurer (2016)

Board of Directors:

Barbara Harris
Nancy Hutchins
Gwen Moore
Sydell Shayer

Nominating Committee 2016-2017:

Carol Portman, Chair
Norma Jean Downey
Liz Wolkoff

Respectfully submitted, Nominating Committee:

Mary Brown, Chair
Charlene Dummett
Dianne Modrell
Louise Wilkerson

LEADERSHIP 2014-2015**OFFICERS****Co-Presidents** Linda C. McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell (Voters Guide, Development, Joint Office & STL Unit)

1st V. P.

Pat Jones (Candidate Forums)

2nd V.P.

Nancy Miller (In League Reporter)

Secretary

Pat Soraghan

Treasurer

Becky Clausen

DIRECTORS

2013-2015

Rosalie Brasch

2014-2016

Mickey Croyle (EQ, Legislative Action & Web)

2014-2016

Eve Golden (Events & Chesterfield/CC Unit)

2013-2015

Sydell Shayer (Death Penalty Abolition)

2013-2015

Catherine Stenger (Voter Registration)

2013-2015

Nancy Hutchins (Special Events, Membership)

2014-2016

Dianne Modrell (Health Care)

OFF - BOARD CHAIRS:

Agnes Garino

Metro News

Barbara Harris

STL/IS Volunteer Coordinator

Marty Ott

Education

Carol Portman

C/UC Unit

Mary Beth Reynolds

Speakers Bureau

Judith Smart

International Relations

K Wentzien

Investment, Nominating, K/W Unit

OFFICE STAFF:

Anna Mennerick - Joint Office Executive Director

Julie Behrens - Joint Office Bookkeeper & More

CANDIDATE FORUMS 2014-2015

During 2014, one Candidate Forum for the 86th District State Representative Race was held for the August election. For the November election, three additional forums were held for a local aldermanic race, a state representative and a U.S. congressional seat. For the 2015 April elections, the League moderated 15 candidate forums in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. With few exceptions, the forums drew crowds in the range of 75 to over 100 people. Contributing to the success of the League's candidate forums is the wonderful team effort displayed by our volunteers. There is no way we could provide this service to the community without their efforts.

Thank you so very much to the following for volunteering their time and energy this election season: Gail Hafer, Barbara Harris, Kathleen Farrell, Lori Calcaterra, Julian Long, Nancy Miller, K Wentzien, Mary Beth Reynolds, Becky Clausen, Liz Aurbach, Nancy Price, Judith Smart, Marsha Clark, Stefany Brot, Cliff Zell, Judith Arnold, Catherine Stenger, Ida West, Linda McDaniel, Carol Portman, Marjorie Courtney, Susan Fluegel, Dianne Modrell, Debby Howard, Evelyn Buretta, Jane Nettesheim, Mary Brown, Pat Soraghan, Marty Ott, Dixie Buford, Nancy Bowser, Velma Bailey, Louise Wilkerson, Alfreda Brown, Kathy Maret, Renate Lytle, Mickey Croyle, Carol Strawbridge and Beverly Dummett.
Pat Jones, Forums Coordinator

VOTER REGISTRATION

From January 1, 2014, through March of 2015, the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis registrars registered 1588 voters, including 1403 new citizens after 50 naturalization ceremonies at five locations. Occurring almost weekly in all types of weather, most ceremonies are at the Eagleton Courthouse. Others were at General Grant Historic Site, Harris-Stowe State University, Old Courthouse, Parkway South High School, and St. Louis University Law School.

By also honoring all other requests for voter registrations, Leaguers registered 185 more voters. We went to All Saints Episcopal Church, Community meeting about the landfill, Forder School in Mehlville, Harris-Stowe State University, Kirkwood Baptist Church, Pathway to Public Office Workshop at UMSL, St. Louis Community Colleges (Florissant Valley, Forest Park, Meramec and Wildwood), St. Luke's Plaza Health and Resource Fair, St. Peter's UCC in Ferguson, St. Theresa and St. Bridget Catholic Church, University City Build a Better Block Fair, University City Loop with high school students, and the Urban League Job and Resource Fair at UMSL.

Thank you to Stephen Aylward, Liz Aurbach, Stefany Brot, Evelyn Buretta, Lori Calcaterra, Esther Clark, James Clark, Marj Courtney, Angie Dunlap, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Barbara Harris, Ginny Hartley, Nancy Hutchins, Kathleen Lottenbach, Renate Lytle, Linda McDaniel, Cindy Mitchell, Dianne Modrell, Carolyn Nolan, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Mary Beth Reynolds, Judith Smart, Pat Soraghan, Catherine Stenger, Billie Teneau, Pam Todorovich, Kayla Vaughn, K Wentzien, Ida West, Louise Wilkerson, and Sue Williams.

Barbara Harris & Catherine Stenger, Voter Registration Chairs

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Fourteen requests for a speaker were filled in 2014 and thus far in 2015. In March and April of 2015, volunteers presented programs to members of an AEL class in Rockwood, a retirement facility in University City, Shepherd's Center Webster/Kirkwood and Epworth Children and Family Services.

Many thanks to Becky Clausen, Angie Dunlap and Nancy Miller for generously giving their time and skills to increase understanding of ballot issues and promote the LWV mission of participation in government. 2016 promises to be a busy year. Contact the League office to volunteer for the Speakers Bureau - 314-961-6869.
Mary Beth Reynolds, Coordinator

METRO NEWS

The Metro News is The League of Women Voters Information Service's quarterly publication printed in the League office. The Metro News is sent to League members, organizations, contributors, individuals and State Senators and State Representatives from the St. Louis area community.

The Metro News is available by mail, email and online at the St. Louis League's website. The Metro News' focus is educational and voter information activities of the League of Women Voters. Voter Guide information is included before each election.
Agnes Garino, Editor

OFFICE VOLUNTEER REPORT

Our volunteers logged over **4,800** hours of service to the League of Women Voters of St. Louis and the League of Women Voters Information Service this past year.

4,331 telephone calls and emails answered.

Our volunteer list includes board members, committee chairs, Leaguers and friends of Leaguers who offer their time and services to make the League of Women Voters a viable organization.

We staffed an office open to the public offering information regarding elected officials, ballot information, voter registration, candidate forums, and a speakers bureau. We had an online voter guide for the St. Louis City primary election in March 2015.

The three elections - August and Nov. 2014 and April 2015 covered the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Jefferson County, Lincoln County, Warren County, and Franklin County. Voter Guides were available at Schnucks, libraries, churches, interested businesses, and mailed to individuals. The Voter Guides were available on line and printed in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Leaguers generously donated their time distributing the guides.

See articles on Candidate Forums, Voter Registration drives and Speakers Bureau on this page and Voters Guides on p. 1 for all the volunteer efforts.

Then there are clerical duties regarding newsletters, unit meeting, general meeting, updating membership data bases, etc. There is always something that keeps our volunteers busy.

If you are interested in donating some time and energy to the League please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314-968-3609 or IMBJH@charter.net



LWV of Metro St. Louis Theatre Party

Saturday, October 24th Matinee



Dogfight

2348 Tennessee in the Tower Grove East neighborhood of St. Louis

Intimate Theatre: only 150 great seats

Parking lot and street parking and handicap accessible

STORY - On November 21, 1963, a group of young marines is gathered in San Francisco the night before they ship off to Vietnam. They decide to celebrate their last night of freedom with a cruel game they call a "dogfight" where every man sets out to find the ugliest girl he can and brings her to a party. Everyone puts in money, and the man with the ugliest date wins the pot. One of the young men taking part is Eddie Birdlace, who is running out of time to find a date when he meets idealistic waitress Rose Fenny in a diner. He invites her to the party—her very first party—and she accepts. She leaves angrily when she finds out about the bet and Eddie, feeling bad, comes to find her. After an inauspicious beginning, an awkward love story begins to unfold. (A 1991 movie available through Netflix)

Sponsors: \$150 (2 tickets), \$300 (4 tickets), \$500 (6 tickets), \$1,000 (12 tickets)

Individual Tickets: \$60

More information available soon!

PROPOSITION 1 - City of St. Louis Aug. 4th election

Bond issue must be approved by 2/3 of the voters to pass

BALLOT WORDING: "Shall the following be adopted: Proposition to issue bonds of the City of St. Louis, Missouri in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Million Dollars (\$180,000,000)

For the purpose of funding a portion of the cost of acquiring certain real property for, and purchasing, replacing, improving, and maintaining the buildings, vehicles, and equipment of, the City, the St. Louis Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services, and other City departments and for maintaining the safety and security of the jails and improving public safety;

For funding a portion of the costs of reconstructing, repairing and improving streets, bridges, and sidewalks; for funding a portion of the costs of infrastructure development and of demolition and abatement of various abandoned or condemned buildings owned by or under the control of the City of St. Louis or its related agencies;

For funding a portion of the cost of city owned building stabilization and preservation; for funding a portion of the costs of home repair programs; for funding ward capital improvements; for funding a portion of the cost of paying for economic development and site development infrastructure, and for paying incidental costs of such work and of issuing the Bonds."

The \$180 million bond would be funded through a property tax increase. For example, a homeowner with a property tax bill based on \$80,000 (home and vehicle) would pay about \$28 more in annual property tax. Someone with a current property tax bill based on \$140,000 would pay an additional \$50 each year. A property tax bill based on \$275,000 would have a \$97 annual increase.

St. Louis County Special Elections Tuesday Aug. 4

TERMS

Black Jack - Council Ward 1 - 2 yr.

Norwood Court - Trustee - 2 yr.

Riverview Gardens FPD-Dir. - 6 yr.

Proposition 1 -

Proponents say that millions of dollars of deferred capital improvements need to be made after two recessions in order to continue essential services and the City's financial health. They also say that \$10 million will be spent throughout the city's neighborhoods by allowing the aldermen themselves to split these funds across the city's 28 wards.

Opponents say added ward money and demolition and home repair funds do not work toward the goal of the measure - to increase equipment support for police and firefighters; and to improve the city's bridges, roads and streets.

LEAGUE FUND RAISERS

We held two successful fundraisers this past year, the annual Theatre Party, featuring Mustard Seed Theatre's "All is Calm" in November, and our 2nd annual Trivia Party in March. Together these events raised over \$10,000.

In addition, we were awarded a \$9,950 grant from the Roblee Foundation to support a new program initiative, which encourages participation in local and state government among newly naturalized citizens, and encourages voting among college students. On the strength of this grant, Roblee invited us to submit an additional grant to develop Observer Corps and Advocacy Action in four north St. Louis County high schools. We are waiting a decision on this addition grant.

Smaller fundraising efforts include the May 2014 Support STL which brought the League close to \$1,000 and Schnucks E-Script which provides the League approximately \$1,000 per year. We have continued to work one night at Tilles Park's Winter Wonderland and with the St. Louis Housing Authority Tenant Advisory Board elections to raise funds.

This year we will be initiating a new fundraising program, Friends of the League, which is a direct solicitation program target at supporters in the community. In addition, we will broaden our efforts to add the League to matching employee/ employer donation programs.

Kathleen Farrell, Co-President

THANKS to our more than 80 office volunteers this year:

Judith Arnold, Liz Aurbach, Rick Aurbach, Stephen Aylward, Velma Bailey, Brenda Banjak, Brenda Bartz, Sally Beck, Nancy Billingham, Lois Bliss, Nancy Bowser, Rosalie Brasch, Stefany Brot, Alfreda Brown, Mary Brown, Mary Ellen Brucker, Dixie Buford, Evelyn Buretta, Marjorie Courtney, Mickey Croyle,

Sue Dellbringge, Norma Jean Downey, Angie Dunlap, Beverly Dummett, Charlene Dummett, Bob Elgin, Betsy Enslin, Joan Esserman, Pat Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Susan Fluegel, Bob Franklin,

Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Eve Golden, Gail Hafer, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Ginny Hartley, Ilene Horenstein, Debby Howard, Gene Hutchins, Nancy Hutchins, Debbie Irwin, Nancy Jennings, Pat Jones, Kathleen Lottenbach, Renate Lytle,

Kathy Maret, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Dianne Modrell, Gwen Moore, Elizabeth Munden, Barbara Nagel, Carolyn Nolan, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Mary Beth Reynolds, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, Pat Soraghan, Jean Srenco, Catherine Stenger, Carol Strawbridge,

Billie Teneau, Janice Thomas, Kay Tice, Pam Todorovich, K Wentzien, Lolly Wehri, Marilyn Werner, Ida West, Louise Wilkerson, Sue Williams, Liz Wolkoff & Cliff Zell.

If you are interested in donating some time and energy to the League please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314-968-3609 or IMBJH@charter.net

Thank you to all LWV financial supporters.

Contributions to the LWVMSTL are always greatly appreciated.

Send to address below.

If you want to be an informed citizen . . . join the League of Women Voters.

LWV Missouri - www.lwvmissouri.org
LWV Metro St. Louis - www.lwvstl.org

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144
314/961-6869

**FUNDING FOR THE LWVIS
May 2014-May 2015**

Contributions from the community and League members.

Major contributors

Roblee Foundation
Agnes & Dave Garino
Lois Bliss

CONTRIBUTORS

Ruth Siteman
Pat Rich
Catherine Stenger
K Wentzien
Linda McDaniel
Martha Ott
Laura Ray
Barbara Harris
Joyce Schuetz
Mickey Croyle
Cynthia Mitchell
Robert Elgin
Arthur Lieber
Mickey Hall

FRIENDS

Judith Smart
Doris Flowers
The MPF Foundation
Belden Inc.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF WERE GIVEN BY:

Linda McDaniel, Mary Ellen Brucker, Julie Behrens, Michael Bohannon, Judith Smart, Patricia Gray, Doris Flowers, and Lois Bliss.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITY

WINTER WONDERLAND It was a beautiful evening on Monday, December 8, 2014, and we received many compliments on the gorgeous display. People were glad to hear that the League was one of the organizations that volunteered to staff the event. Approximately 350 cars toured the park that night. The LWVIS received a check for \$500 for our services.

Many thanks go to Alan Renford, Billie Teneau, Mary Beth Reynolds, Mary Ellen Brucker, Linda McDaniel, Dianne Modrell, Nancy Price, Cliff Zell, Ken Biddle, Kathleen Farrell, Becky Clausen, & Julie Behrens.

Becky Clausen & Julie Behrens, Event Coordinators



League of Women Voters Information Service

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Agnes Garino, Editor

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

There has been little change in the LWVIS portfolio (*now the LWV of Metro St. Louis portfolio*) since last year. The total value of the Vanguard investments is down slightly from \$357,375 in FY 2014 to \$356,167 as of March 31, 2015. But that's net of a \$20,000 withdrawal for LWVIS expenses in FY2015 so it's been a reasonably good year.

At the August, 2014 meeting, after reviewing the current Vanguard account and the **League of Women Voters Information Service Investment Policy**, Bob Franklin observed that our equity balance and fixed income balances were prudent but not in compliance with the LWVIS Investment Policy recommendations. Therefore, the following policy changes were recommended which would allow more flexibility in response to market adjustments:

Under Section II. Guidelines for Investing

Modify the allowable range for Equities to be from 20%-75% instead of 20%-60%.

Modify the allowable range for Fixed Income balances to be from 15%-75% instead of 35%-75%. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the LWVIS Board of Directors.

For more information contact any committee member or the office. All are welcome to attend the Committee meetings. We continue to be grateful to Janet Becker and her family for their generous gift of a \$300,000 Missouri Health and Welfare Bond in 2009. **The Committee would like to point out that donations of investments can be useful in your tax and estate planning and urge you to consider the LWV of Metro St. Louis a worthy recipient if you are in a position to do so.**

The Investment Advisory Committee is an off-board group consisting of three at-large members appointed by the Board, including the Co-Presidents, Treasurer, Development Chair, and Executive Director. Presently serving on the committee are: Linda McDaniel, Kathleen Farrell, and Becky Clausen. Off-board members are Pat Esserman, Bob Franklin, Anna Mennerick, & **K Wentzien, Committee Chair**. The Committee is advisory only to the LWV of Metro St. Louis Board of Directors.

SUPPORT the League's Important Voter Service Work

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Send to: LWV of Metro St. Louis
8706 Manchester Rd., Ste. 104,
St. Louis, MO 63144.