



IN LEAGUE REPORTER - October 2009
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
314.961.6869 www.lwvstl.org

From the President:

The League year is underway. We had a great Kickoff meeting with great attendance too. The program, St. Louis Urban Debate League in the St. Louis public schools, was exciting and encouraging. Mr. Ravi Rao and two of his sophomore debaters Isaac Singleton and Olivia Huddleston-Boatman talked about the program that had more than 100 participants last year. It is part of a national program that has been featured on 60 Minutes. The students research an assigned issue putting together a 5 inch notebook of notes, and then they were required to debate both sides of the issue. This is in addition to their regular school work. Isaac was asked about his favorite part of the program and he said, the look on the face of his opponent when he had made an especially good argument, and the opponent was not sure what he might say next. It is encouraging to see these will be our future leaders in business, politics, science and citizenship.

I would like to encourage you to join one of the League Committees who report to you in each In League. Everyone is welcome. You will learn something and enjoy the learning and discussion with friends. Remember to put the unit meetings, full of discussion and learning with friends, on your calendar, also. I hope to see you there.

Please remember to call or email your U.S. Representative and Senators to encourage support for meaningful reform that provides health care insurance to all.

Linda C. McDaniel

**2009-2010 LWV ST. LOUIS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 Sydell Shayer

Newsletter Ed. Nancy Miller

CALENDAR						
Thurs.	Oct.	1	10 am	Health Care Committee	Pg. 6	Cape Albeon; Presenters
Thurs.	Oct.	8	10 am	Health Care Committee	Pg. 6	Cape Albeon
	Oct.	8-14		Unit Meetings	Pg. 7-9	
Fri.	Oct.	9	10 am	International Relations Comm	Pg. 6	St Louis Cnty Lib. Hdqtrs
Tues.	Oct.	13	5:30 pm	Environmental Quality Comm	Pg. 6	League Office
Sat.	Oct.	17	9:30 am	Education Committee	Pg. 6	League Office
Fri/ Sat	Oct	16,17	9am-4pm	Tailgate Book Sale	Pg. 2	Delmar Loop
Sat.	Oct.	24	8a-5p	TAB election	Pg. 9	St. Louis City sites
Sat.	Oct.	24	2-4pm	UN Day Celebration	Pg. 4	Ethical Society
Tues.	Oct.	27	6pm	Membership Happy Hour	Pg. 2	Mosaic
Wed.	Oct.	28	6pm	Pizza & Politics Series	Pg. 3	Sunnen Lounge, WebsterU

SYDELL SHAYER HONORED: AGELESS AND REMARKABLE

Our very own *Sydell Shayer* has been selected as one of St. Andrew’s Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans (STARS) for 2009. St. Andrew’s Resources for Seniors will recognize the on-going achievements of Sydell and 19 other STARS who have made and continue to make a difference in our lives at a gala event, **The Remarkable 20 of 2009**, on November 1 at the Chase Park Plaza. For tickets and more information, please call 314.726.0111 or go to www.standrews1.com.

We congratulate Sydell on this distinct honor, and wholeheartedly agree with St. Andrew’s assessment that she is truly “Ageless and Remarkable.”

Pat Jones, Membership

UPCOMING EVENTS



TAILGATE BOOK SALE

OCTOBER 16 – 17TH 9AM - 4PM

The League of Women Voters Tailgate Book Sale is coming up – October 16th and 17th in the market place in the Delmar Loop.

We have a great selection of books this year, and even if you donated books for our sale, you will want to come by and pick up some good books to read this winter.

SEE YOU THERE!

Barbara Elbrecht

LWV Happy Hour Admission: Bring a Prospective Member!!

Save the date: The evening of **October 27 at 6:00pm** for a Happy Hour Get-Together to welcome prospective and new members at *Mosaic*, 1001 Washington Ave.(10th & Washington), downtown.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and ideas. We are **ALL** part of the Membership Committee!

Mary Long

314.849.7045

MaryLong@lwwstl.org

Pat Jones

314.842.9383

PatJones@lwwstl.org



PIZZA AND POLITICS SERIES

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, FOCUS St. Louis, and Holden Public Policy Center at Webster University

Director Jon Hagler, Missouri Department of Agriculture

Wednesday, October 28th

6:00 p.m in the Sunnen Lounge, University Center, Webster University

Hagler is the current Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Prior to his current position, Dr. Hagler served as Gov. Nixon's principal adviser and liaison on agriculture issues and was instrumental in drafting the governor's agricultural and environmental policies. Dr. Hagler served as the senior corporate development officer for the University of Missouri–Rolla (now, Missouri University of Science & Technology). He was also the executive director of governmental and external affairs at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California.

Our attendance at the forums that our Board voted to support has been close to non-existent, so it's quite important that we show our credibility as an organization to FOCUS St. Louis this fall.

All will be held at 6 p.m. in the Sunnen Lounge. The University Center is located at 175 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, with the closest parking in Lot H or on-street on Garden.

Upcoming Presentations:

The Term Limit Debate: Representative Chris Kelly and Ed Martin, Wed., Nov. 18th

Director Linda Martinez, Missouri Department of Economic Development, Wed., Dec. 2nd

The Honorable Judge Richard Teitelman, Missouri Supreme Court, Wed., Jan. 20th

For more information, call *Nancy Thompson* at 314.423.2312.



LWV and UN DAY

“How to Make the United Nations More Effective” is the theme to be discussed at the 2009 United Nations Day celebration on October 24 at the Ethical Society. The League of Women Voters of St. Louis will be one of the panelists along with representatives of other organizations such as the United Nations Association of St. Louis, the Ethical Action Committee of the Ethical Society, Citizens for Global Solutions, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Institute for Peace and Justice. Because our International Relations Committee is studying the UN Millennium Development Goals this year, we will be addressing what the goals are and the progress made so far in attaining them.

The meeting will be **2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, October 24.** **The Ethical Society** is located at 9001 Clayton Road., west of the Galleria. No charge. Plenty of parking is available. Please join us for this informative event.

Judith Smart, IR Chair

REPORT:THE LEAGUE’S 27th ANNUAL TAILGATE



It was August and Elise and I were getting nervous because we had very few items collected for our space at the Tailgate Sale which was fast approaching. Julie came to our rescue putting reminders in the Reporter—check your basements, check your closets—you won’t have to dust it if you donate it! The calls started “I don’t have much, but...” and soon all of those “don’t have much” donations added up and we had a good collection of items to sell--\$820 worth! A big **THANK YOU** to all who donated items.

We had wonderful weather and didn’t have the bike race with the loud announcer and problems with parking.

Of course, we have to deduct expenses when we get the invoices for advertising in the Journals, the Post Dispatch, St. Louis American and the Student Life website and the very necessary portable “Johnny”.

Unfortunately we did not register any voters, but all those asked assured us they had registered to vote.

Thanks to all who worked to make Tailgate a success—Esther and Jim Clark, Carol Portman, Carol Washburne, Mary Parker, Betty and Ken Maag, Doris Buzzell, Kathleen Farrell, Sydell and Larry Shayer, Bob Franklin, Jeanne Morrel-Franklin, Joe and Rea Kleeman, K and PJ Wentzien, Linda McDaniel, Enid Tennenbaum and, of course, Elise and Denny Joerger and our wonderful Willie Patton and the two great boys who helped with unloading and setting up the barriers.

Barbara Elbrecht, Chair

REPORT: St. Louis Urban Debate League Schedule 2009-2010

On September 9, League members and guests heard and viewed an impressive presentation by the Executive Director of the St. Louis Urban Debate League and two of the participating high school students. The video presentation from a 60 Minutes coverage of the National Urban Debate League program was informative and inspiring. The students, Isaac Singleton and Olivia Huddleston-Boatman from Metro High School, each presented their view of participation in the debate program, which has received much media attention.. This The St. Louis League's first year was a banner one. The program recruited students and teachers for the program, held tournaments and took students to the national championship tournament where they won numerous awards. Mr. Rao, the executive Director, hopes to double participation in the program for this school year.

When asked how the League could support them, the students responded the donations would always be nice, but interest in and attendance at their debates would be great! Mr. Rao also stated that debate judges and workers are also needed, with very little training required. To accommodate this, we will be updating League members on their upcoming debates and needs. Their first debate will be:

Friday & Saturday October 23-24 at the Visual & Performing Arts High School
Friday 3-8pm and Saturday 9am – 7pm.

If you are unable to attend for the entire time, observing individual rounds would be great! Each debate has 4 – 6 rounds. For specific times for the rounds and any other information, contact Ravi Rao at ravirao@urbandebate.org or Kathleen Farrell @ farrelk@slu.edu or 314.773.2876.

COMMITTEES AT WORK

EARLY VOTING CONSENSUS STUDY COMMITTEE

In May 2009 LWVMO State Convention adopted an Early Voting Study. The scope of the study will be the methods of early voting for the purpose of improving access to voting and increasing voter turnout. This includes early in-person voting, no excuse absentee voting/vote by mail.

LWVMO Early Voting State Committee is in the process of providing resources, summarizing research, surveying county election clerks and commissioners and finalizing the consensus study questions. Currently, the local committee members are receiving the research files for study and discussion.

Thanks to the members of LWVSTL who have volunteered to serve on the local committee. The first meeting will be scheduled soon. If you are interested in serving on this committee or feel that you don't have the time to serve, but would like to help with additional research, please contact Martha at 314.434.0330 or e-mail martyott06@yahoo.com

Marty Ott



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Health Care Committee will have a meeting on Oct. 1st for the specific purpose of preparing for our presentation to the units in November. The meeting will be at Cape Albeon at 10 am. Please have discussion questions ready. Our regular meeting will be on Thursday Oct. 8th at Cape Albeon. We will meet at 10 am for this meeting as well. The subject of Health Care Reform and Swine Flu will be the focus of our presentation. If you have any questions call Katherine at 636.861.7148.

Katharine Kilpatric, Chair



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will be meeting on October 17th at 9:30 a.m. at the League office and continue to meet the 3rd Saturday of each following month. Our purpose is to explore teacher education programs in our region and communicate our findings of best practices and recommendations to universities/colleges involved.

Marty Rulo, Chair



ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The EQ committee will meet at Tuesday, October 13th, 5:30 pm at the League Office. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Nancy Bowser, Chair



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will hold its regular meeting on Friday, October 9th at 10am at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters building at Lindbergh and Clayton Rd. The committee is sponsoring the United Nations Day on October 24th at the Ethical Society.

Judith Smart, IR Chair

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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*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Do you have some extra time to share with the League? Below are a few of the opportunities available. We would also be happy to meet

with you and tailor a project to your interests. Most projects can be done at the office many can be done in the comfort of your home or favorite WIFI coffee shop.

Have an hour? . . . update the current publications list to promote League resources and merchandise.

Have a morning? . . . use your passion for a policy issue or for organized files in general, let us introduce you to a drawer or shelf waiting for your special touch.

Have a day? . . . look over our own and other League web sites and make recommendations for improvements and additions.

Have time for a larger commitment . . . once a week, once a month, how about the voter service hotline, data entry, web site manager, you name it. This organization is full of fascinating history and history making opportunities that can use the skills you have or the ones you would like to develop. Contact Anna Mennerick at 314.961.6869 or AnnaMennerick@lwwstl.org to get started.

**MISSOURI HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TENANT AFFAIRS BOARD ELECTION**

The second opportunity for League members to *supervise the St. Louis Housing Authority elections* (Tenant Affairs Board) is **Saturday, October 24th**. It will probably be the larger of the two elections and require 50% more volunteers than the August election did. There will be two half-day shifts—8am to 12:30pm and 12:30-5pm. The 11 election sites are located in public housing around the city of St. Louis, which provides the election crew with a pleasantly surprising look at public housing in St. Louis.

This is an excellent opportunity to support the League and facilitate fair elections. Just bring a book and a smile—take time to take part! Please contact Kathleen Kelly at dkbkmk01@swbell.net or 314.533.3972 to volunteer.

Kathleen Kelly

October Unit Meetings

COMING SOON TO AN OCTOBER UNIT MEETING NEAR YOU. . . .

Mary Long and Pat Jones, Membership Co-Chairs!

We're taking our Membership Campaign on the road this month as we visit every Unit to talk about upcoming events and the "snowball effect" of recruiting. Unit Leaders, we just need a spot on your agenda, and we promise to only talk for a few minutes.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and ideas. We are **ALL** part of the Membership Committee

Mary Long

Pat Jones

314.849.7045 MaryLong@lwwstl.org

314.842.9383 PatJones@lwwstl.org

AMAZING REVELATIONS AND OTHER STUFF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY AT THE OCTOBER UNITS

Participants at the October units will have the opportunity to hear a member of Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP) discuss incredible circumstances surrounding the death penalty system in the United States with emphasis on Missouri.

Delegates to the 2006 national League Convention voted to adopt the “Abolition of the Death Penalty” as a new League position. The Missouri state League has passed a resolution supporting a moratorium on the death penalty with a concurrent study to look at all aspects of the death penalty system in Missouri. We have supported state legislation to implement this position as well as appearing on panels in opposition to the death penalty.

This will be our League’s first program on the death penalty. The meeting will be informal with plenty of opportunity for discussion. There will be a different speaker at each unit.

The issue is crying out for justice. Just a couple of weeks ago, a man, already executed, was found to be innocent of the crime of arson for which he received the death penalty. There are many myths connected to the death penalty which the League strives to dispel. Understanding all the ramifications of this subject will help us educate the community.

I will attend all the unit meetings in October to introduce the speakers. Hope to see you at one of them. *Sydell Shayer, Death Penalty chair*

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, October 13

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

North on Big Bend, 1st stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2nd block on left.

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, October 14

9:30 a.m. meeting

HOME OF PATSY FARRIOR

513 Meadow Creek Ln.

314.821.0197

Leader: Mary Long

314.849.7045

Manchester Road to Woodlawn. North on Woodlawn to 3rd Street on right, Meadow Creek. Third house on the left, red mailbox.

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, October 8

9:30 a.m. meeting

Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane

314.434.5116

Leader: Norma Jean Downey

636.391.7589

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

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, October 8

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, October 10
10:30 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314.773.8719 or Kathleen
Farrell 314.773.2876

Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar
For ride contact Betty Ann or Kathleen



Thanks to those helpful office volunteers. YOU put the “U” in volunteer. This month’s volunteers included Mary K. Brown, Sue Dellbringge, Susan Fluegel, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Pat Jones, Katharine Kilpatric, Mary Long, Tom Mennerick, Judith Smart and Enid Tennenbaum.

Julie Behrens

We send a heartfelt Thank-You to Joyce (Guard) Schuetz for her years of tireless service as the **In League Reporter** editor. This responsibility is important as the members rely on the monthly In League to keep them informed concerning League activities and issues. We reluctantly accept Joyce’s resignation and extend our sincere congratulations for her recent marriage and best wishes for the days and years ahead. Nancy Miller has accepted the position as the new editor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

“Unapologetically Smart” is one definition of a League member. What does smart mean to you -- getting your facts straight, speaking out when false statements are repeated, keeping your mouth shut when it makes sense? When I was a teenager, a boss once dismissively called me “book smart.” I will admit that 25 years of additional life have made me smarter. The League offers many ways to supplement our booklists as we continue learning. These include policy committees, consensus questions, unit meeting discussion, candidate forums, speakers and more.

Good government results from good decision making, and good decision making requires smarts. Digging below the surface, researching from a broad spectrum, pursuing informed policy positions, advocating for our legislative priorities . . . these are the benchmarks of “smart” in the League of Women Voters.

Anna Mennerick



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