



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS

8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104,

St Louis, MO 63144

314.961.6869 www.lwvstl.org

SEPTEMBER 2011

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LWVUS PRESIDENT TO VISIT ST. LOUIS

Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President, will be visiting the St. Louis League on August 30th and 31st. The visit is part of a multi-city trip planned to allow Ms MacNamara to meet with local Missouri Leagues. Lois Detrick, LWV of Missouri President, will accompany Ms MacNamara and also participate in the various meetings.

On Tuesday afternoon, our co-presidents, Kathleen Farrell and Linda McDaniel together with Ms Detrick and Ms MacNamara will meet with the Post-Dispatch editorial board followed by a meeting with Adam Goodman and Chris Ave of the Post-Dispatch, with whom we are coordinating the 411 Voter Guide project. Following these meetings, the presidents will attend a dinner meeting with Diana Carlin, chair of the Board of Directors of Kids Vote USA. Improving education in governmental processes, including the voting process, is a potential project for the St Louis League.

Wednesday morning, the presidents will meet with Dr. William Kincaid, Chairman of the St. Louis Asthma Consortium to discuss clean air issues and LWV advocacy. This will be followed by a **Meet and Greet** with the LWVSTL membership **at the Center of Clayton from 10am until 11:30am**. All members are encouraged to come and share your views with President McNamara.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Wed. Aug 31	10-11:30 am	Meet & Greet	Center of Clayton
Sat. Sept. 3	9:30-11:30 am	Education Comm.	League Office
Mon. Sept. 5	7:30-2 pm	Tailgate Sale	U. City Loop
Mon. Sept. 5	OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY		
Fri. Sept. 9	10 am	International Relations	County Library Headquarters
Tues. Sept 13	7 pm	Environmental Quality	League Office
Wed. Sept. 14	5:45-8 pm	Fall Kickoff Dinner	Orlando's on Watson
Wed. Sept. 21	6 pm	STL/IS Board Meetings	League Office

FEATURE ARTICLES

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

WE ARE OFF AND RUNNING!!

What a summer it has been! It is clear that government at all levels needs to get back to working for what is good for the country and regain the public's trust. We need good information and principled thoughtful debate on issues, quality unbiased information on the ballot initiative petitions we are being asked to sign, and a Voters Guide that can help voters make choices in the 2012 election season. We need to lead by example and help our community improve our political discussions and decision making processes. In other words, THE WORK OF OUR LEAGUE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN IT IS NOW! Our community is counting on us. Let's all make a beginning of the year commitment to making that happen. Here's what is coming up.....

We begin with a St. Louis visit with Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS president. She will be meeting with our membership on **Wednesday, August 31st from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Clayton Center.** This is your opportunity to talk to her directly about the things that matter to you. Please make this a high priority and make your voice heard!

Our September 14th Kickoff gets us started on the national education study Marty Ott is leading. Come hear about the federal government's role in education, sign up to work on different projects, connect with League friends **and bring someone you know who cares about the same issues and principles we do and can join our efforts.** New members come to the League primarily because someone they know and respect asks them to come to a meeting. There they meet intelligent and engaging people who do amazing work in our community **and they join.** We would like to see all of you try to bring someone to the Kickoff. We will be doing consensus on the education study at our October and November unit meetings. The Education Committee under Marty's leadership has done a stellar job of researching the issues and preparing materials for our members. Look for material from your unit leaders in September to get us all up to speed for those consensus discussions. The League's voice needs to be heard about this critical issue and reaching consensus is an important part of crafting a national program position that enables us to advocate on education policy.

Our development committee under Louise Reeve's leadership is working on a number of projects that you will want to be a part of. Look for more information about that in the next ILR.

Finally, our new program initiative for this year is a public program on the question: "What does it mean to provide for the common good?" This is the question that all levels government need to grapple with in their discussions of budgets, public vs. private responsibility, and a fair and responsible tax structure. Kathleen Kelly has agreed to form a working group to begin this initiative. A number of people have already come forward who want to work on this project- please join them by contacting Kathleen Kelly.

Welcome to the League's 2011-12 year! There is good company and good conversation to be shared and good work to be done. Make a commitment to work on at least one League project that is important to you this year and we can accomplish great things. See you at the Meet and Greet with LWVUS President August 31 and the Kickoff September 14th.

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Linda McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell

LEAGUE IN THE LOOP TAILGATE SALE

Our Annual League in the Loop Tailgate Sale will be held on Labor Day, Monday, **September 5th** at Parking Lot #4 (behind the Loop Market) in University City. The League will not have a booth this year. **We will sell booths at \$30.00 per booth until Sept. 1st. Booth purchase after that date is \$40.00 per booth.** A booth is 2 parking spaces. Are you interested in purchasing a booth to see those terrific treasures you have finally decided to part with help make money for the League? **Have 2 or 3 people get together and buy a booth or would your unit like to purchase a booth?** You could always challenge other units and see who is top dog in sales. For more information **contact Barbara Elbrecht at 314.962.2821.** See p. 12

Please note: we will not hold a book sale this year. So please pass your books on to others. The League office will not be collecting books this year.
Barbara Elbrecht, Chair

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIVITIZATION STUDY BEGINS

The LWVUS Convention in 2010 decided to undertake a study called "Privatization: The policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector." The study will focus on the impact of contracting government services out to private businesses on local communities.

I will be chairing our local committee on this subject, so all who might be interested should give me a call at 314.304.5031. Serving on a committee is a great activity for those who have government experience and a really fun way to learn something totally foreign to you. If you're new to League, my advice is to volunteer for a committee; that's where lifelong friendships are formed.

It's comforting that the national board member who will be watching over this study will be Janis McMillen from nearby Kansas. As soon as the committee releases study information, we'll be figuring out the best way to start informing you about this subject.

With a number of years of experience as a department head in local governments, I can see both the plusses and the minuses of privatization. It will be an interesting ride. Come along!

Nancy Thompson

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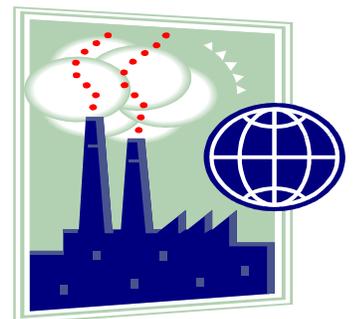
WHAT IS FRACKING ?

The debate on fracking was discussed on a recent NPR report (July 13, 2011) and fracturing was considered for a study at the recent LWVUS National Convention. This article will provide some background information. The oil and gas that was easy to obtain within the United States has already been used. The search for energy within the United States is now centered on the large reserves that are more difficult to obtain. Gas fracturing is at the center of this debate to develop these reserves of fuel. Fracking makes it possible to extract petroleum from hard-to-reach places such as a mile underground in dense layers of shale. What is fracking? Hydraulic fracturing, also called fracking, fracing-or hydrofracking, is the pumping of millions of gallons of water mixed with sand and small amounts of other proprietary chemicals into the rock from a single well. Under intense pressure, this creates tiny fractures that allow oil and gas trapped there to escape (Philippe A. Charlez: *Rock Mechanics: Petroleum applications*, Editions Technip, 1997). It is done from a wellbore drilled into reservoir rock formations. This allows a significant order increase in the extraction rates and ultimate recovery of oil and natural gas. Fracking is extremely controversial. The proponents claim that the method is safe and

poses minimal environmental threat; while the opponents maintain that fracking is unacceptably risky and argue that it has already contaminated drinking water in other states. A form of fracking is used with each oil well drilled just prior to the capping. Much of the concern is about use of this method in newer, deep natural gas wells that are drilled down thousands of feet, then horizontally up to an additional 5,000 feet. Proponents maintain that properly conducted, modern hydraulic fracing is a highly controlled and safely engineered process that has been used by the oil and gas industry since the 1940s. The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission estimates hydraulic fracturing is used in 90% of domestic oil and gas wells. Environmental and human health concerns associated with hydraulic fracturing include the contamination of ground water, risks to air quality, the migration of gases and hydraulic fracturing chemicals to the surface, and the potential mishandling of waste. The potential costs associated with possible environmental clean-up processes, loss of land value and human and animal health concerns are undetermined. A 2010 EPA study discovered contaminants in drinking water including: arsenic, copper,

vanadium and adamantanes (highly reactive hydrocarbon compounds found in petroleum products) adjacent to drilling operations (“US EPA finds groundwater contaminants near ‘fracking sites’, *Water21*, International Water Association 11/1/2010 <http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=news412>). The EPA said a broad range of sources are being investigated, including agricultural activity, but noted gas drilling as a potential cause. Penn State has been developing new fracture fluids and technology, but there are still concerns of environmental safety. The proprietary nature of the chemical additives makes it difficult to evaluate the safety of fracking in relation to drinking water. Newer technological advances continue to be developed. EPA, state legislatures and state regulators are developing procedures to identify and track the chemicals to ensure the process is safely implemented. .

Mickey Croyle



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

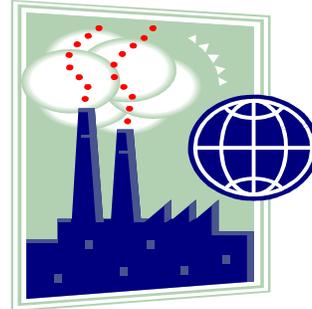
The International Relations Committee will meet on **Sept 9 at 10 a.m.** in the STL Co Library HQ. Our topic for study is China. All are welcome.

Judith Smart, Chairman

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EQ Committee will meet on **September 13 at 7 pm** at the League Office. The Committee continues to keep informed on the Environmental Concerns of the Region including Sustainability. If you have topics for *In League Reporter* articles please forward to the committee. All members are welcomed. This months *In League Reporter* article is background information on the controversial topic of Gas Fracking.

Mickey Croyle
EQ Committee Chair
mcroyle@wustl.edu
eve phone 395-7876



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Our next meeting is **September 3 at 9:30 – 11:30 am** at the League Office. Anyone interested in attending or serving on this committee, please contact Marty Ott. Members are always welcome.

Marty Ott, chair
314-434-0330
martyott06@yahoo.com



COMMITTEE NEWS

CONSENSUS STUDY FOR THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

THE MORE WE KNOW, THE MORE WE WANT TO KNOW; WHEN WE KNOW ENOUGH, WE KNOW HOW MUCH WE DON'T KNOW.

Carol Orlock

As stated in the August In League Reporter, the Consensus Study for the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education will be presented at the **Unit meetings in October and November**. Because this is a broad study, the historical timeline plus Equity and Funding will be presented in October; Common Core Standards in November. Your attendance and participation in the discussion of the consensus questions are strongly encouraged.

This is fourth in a series to inform our members about the topics under consideration.

The Common Core Standards Initiative

What should high school graduates know and when should they learn it? There are nearly 50 different answers to this question. This needs to change. People are mobile. Jobs are mobile. When a student moves to a new district, some topics will be missed and some repeated. Impoverished students, already at a disadvantage, tend to move the most.

Under Bush1, the federal government gave out

a dozen grants to develop national standards, but Congress killed the history standards and complained about the “new math.” President Clinton proposed a national test in reading and in math, but Congress cut off all funding. The No Child Left Behind Act, under Bush2, gave up on uniform standards or a national test, but mandated that each state develop their own system and show annual progress.

In September 2008, recognizing that NCLB was only uniting the states in failure, the National Governors’ Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) joined to provide states a road map for benchmarking their K-12 education systems to those of top performing nations. By June 2009, 46 states had volunteered to join the project. The Common Core State Standards for K-12 appeared only a year later. They have now been formally adopted by 44 states. (Missouri was a late joiner, in summer 2009, but an early adopter on June 15, 2010. We are now one of the leading states for field-testing the standards, along

with new curriculum and new student tests. The entire program should be operational state - wide in 4 years.) So, we are on track to have a nearly national program with little federal compulsion or oversight.

The Education Committee suggests that you read and save this article for the forthcoming presentation in November. The October and November In League Reporter will contain more information for you to copy and bring to your Unit meeting. Please watch for it.

Our next meeting is September 3 at 9:30 – 11:30 am at the League Office. Anyone interested in attending or serving on this committee, please contact Marty Ott. Members are always welcome.

Marty Ott, chair
314-434-0330
martyott06@yahoo.com



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TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In memory of Anita Koester from Jeanne Morrel-Franklin to LWV Information Service.

In memory of Anita Koester from members of the International Relations Committee to LWV St. Louis.

VOLUNTEER CORNER by Julie Behrens

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over. Finally, the heat is breaking. As we approach our many fall activities for the League we want to thank the following who helped with various tasks. Those who contributed time and effort since last time: Evelyn Buretta, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Clyde Creel, Verna Creel, Janice Dahl, Sue Dellbringge, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Katharine Kilpatric, Mary Long, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy

Mitchell, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Louise Reeves, and Jean Srenco. If we neglected to mention anyone, please let us know and we will acknowledge you in the next newsletter.

There are always tasks to do so if you are willing to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609 or email Barbara at IMBJH@charter.net



From the Executive Director's Desk - Anna Mennerick

Education Study, League Kickoff, National President Visit, Interns, Media Collaborations
Welcome back from vacation everyone!

The best thing about the League of Women Voters is we never run out of great ideas. And with each new League season there are opportunities to apply your talents, learn something new, change your mind, or try a new skill. New starts and new challenges abound. Highlight an event or two on the Calendar (Page 1) to attend. Call the author of an intriguing article to find out how you can get more involved. Need ideas? Call a board member or the office to figure out your place in the upcoming League season. There won't be any dull moments, be a part of it.



League Kicks Off Year with Food, Friends, and “What to do about Education” September 14th

Join your League friends and bring some new ones to the Fall Kickoff at Orlando’s at 8352 Watson Road on Wednesday, September 14th. Meet and greet begins at 5:30, a buffet dinner featuring pork, chicken, beef, salad, vegetables and beverages will be served at 6:00 and the program will begin at 6:45.

Our featured speaker, Professor Kathleen Sullivan Brown from UMSL will help us kick off the national study on the federal government’s role in education. She will be speaking on *Equity and Funding*. Professor Brown teaches and studies educational policies and practices, especially those involving state and national reform agendas. She has also been active in community development projects in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Marty Ott, our education study chair has heard her speak and tells us that she is most engaging. As we begin work on the national study this fall this is a good way to begin. Come catch up with your League friends, learn about volunteer opportunities and League programs for the upcoming year, and bring a friend of two who would be interested in joining the League. With a stimulating speaker, good food, and intelligent and lively conversation, how can they resist?



FALL KICKOFF

2011-2012 KICKOFF DINNER

Wednesday, September 14

Orlando Gardens

8352 Watson Rd, Webster Groves

5:30–8:00pm

5:30 Meet and Greet cash bar

6:00 BUFFET DINNER \$25.00

GUEST SPEAKER,

Name(s) attending _____

Amount included \$25.00 per person _____

Email address for confirmation _____

To register and pay online, go to www.lwvstl.org
REGISTRATION DEADLINE September 7th



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