



**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**  
**April, 2008**

**From the President:**

Dear Members and Friends,

We're engaged! It is with great pleasure I share this happy news with you. The Board asked for volunteers to help get out our voters' guides, and over 24 people came to the planning meeting. They signed up to work on one or more teams doing specific tasks within a defined timetable. Another group could not attend but agreed to help where needed. That is what I call engaged.

Of course, this is not the only evidence of our members' willingness to get involved and make an impact in our League and in our community. We are also doing voter registration, candidate forums, assisting in the office, speakers' bureau, unit meetings, assorted committees, board members and other leadership roles. Opportunities abound and members are responding. It is wonderful.

I just might point this out again at the annual meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> but couldn't wait until then. A big thank you to all of you.

*Doris Buzzell*

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**CALENDAR**

**Units--See Page 2**

Sat. April 5	9:30 AM	Housing Forum	Schlafly Library (pg. 5)
Tues. April 8	<b>OTE</b>	St. Louis County Municipal Elections	
Fri. April 11	10:00 AM	International Relations	County Library HQ (pg. 6)
Tues. April 15	5:30 PM	Environmental Quality	LWV Office (pg. 5)
Sat. April 19	9:30 AM	Education Comm.	LWV Office
Tues April 22	9:00 AM	Deputy Registrar Training	County Board of Elections Office (pg.6)
Sat. May 10	12:00 noon	Annual Meeting	Page 4

**Candidate Forum update:**

The League and Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Action Council are co-sponsoring a **candidate forum for Webster Groves City Council, Webster Groves School Board, and Rock Hill City Council**. All candidates on the April 8 ballot for these offices have been invited. The forum will be held **Thursday, April 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Steger Computer School auditorium, 701 N. Rock Hill Road.**

**APRIL UNITS -**

LOCAL UNIT OPTION—\*See page 3 for more details

**Please call the office for locations and leader information**

**UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON**

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 \*

9:15 a.m. coffee, 9:30 a.m. meeting

**\*Program:** The Tax Alphabet Soup

\*Note change of date to accommodate the STL County Election

**WEB. GROVES-K'WOOD DAY**

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

9:30 a.m.

**\*Program:** Dr. Kenneth F. Warren

Election delegates and the Electoral College

**CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

9:30 a.m. meeting

Noon salad lunch

**\*Program:** John May and Liz Forrestal

“Cool Cities” and related environmental topics

**WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

7:00 p.m.

**\*Program:** Jim & Esther Clark

“Health Care in Canada & the US”

Universal Health Care legislation

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104

314-961-6869

**ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT**

Saturday, April 12, 2008

10:30 a.m.

**\*Program:** An update on the SLPS situation..... One year later.... where are we now?

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington

Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar.

## UNIT PROGRAMS

### **Chesterfield/Creve Coeur Unit will have:**

**John May, of the Creve Coeur Recycling, Environment and Beautification sub-committee entitled "Cool Cities;" and Liz Forrestal, who is Communications Director of Missouri Votes Conservation** have both agreed to collaborate and speak to the group on Thursday, April 10. The presentation and question and answer period will be 1-1.5 hours. The specifics unit members requested at the last unit meeting will be used by the speakers for their program.

### **City Unit will have:**

An update on the SLPS situation..... One year later.... where are we now?

### **Kirkwood-Webster Groves Day Unit will have:**

#### **Kenneth F. Warren, Ph.D., Professor of Administrative Law and President, TheWarren Poll**

Professor, pollster and author, Dr. Kenneth F. Warren is one of the nation's leading authorities on politics. A professor of political science at Saint Louis University, Dr. Warren also is president of The Warren Poll. During the last two decades, he has polled for the media, government, private clients, and politicians, including former House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt.

Dr. Warren has served as a political analyst for local, national, and international media for more than 20 years and has appeared live on major networks, He is also a frequent guest on NPR. Dr. Warren is the author of many works including the recent "In Defense of Public Opinion Polling," which has received international acclaim since its release in 2001.

The short title for the **Kirkwood/Webster Evening Unit** in April is "Health Care in Canada & the U.S. " Presenters will be Jim & Esther Clark. It will cover a brief history of how the Canadian system came about, its pros and cons and how that history may predict the future of health care in the U.S. We will also present information about Universal Health Care legislation that has already been introduced in Congress and the Missouri State Legislature.

### **University City Unit will have:**

**Janet Watson, Deputy City Mayor, U City: The Tax Alphabet Soup** What is a TIF, a CID, Business District tax, does the community where you buy gas keep the tax? Come learn about the multitude of taxes that abound in and around metro St. Louis.



**Tailgate Sale:** It's that time again! Check your closets, basements, and garages and find items for this year's Tailgate Sale. Just call the League office, and we can arrange for you to drop them by. If you are working at the office, you can leave items there and they will be picked up.

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### **Another Successful Theater Party**

"*Bluish*", put on by the New Jewish Theatre for the League of Women Voters Information Service 20<sup>th</sup> annual Theater Party, should leave no one at the League of Women Voters with the blues!

The Theater Party met its financial goal of raising about one-fourth of the budget for the LWV-Information Service. Almost 60 community supporters and members bought sponsorships for the event in addition to the single ticket purchasers and contributors in a strong showing of support for the organization. Although this event was primarily a fundraiser, the gala reception after the performance had its own social rewards.

Thanks to everyone!



**LWVSTL Annual Meeting**

**When: Saturday, May 10, 12:00-3:00**

**Where: Spiro's Restaurant (314-878-4449)  
1054 N. Woods Mill, Chesterfield \***

**Luncheon**

followed by business portion of meeting

and speaker, David C. Kimball, Assoc. Prof. UMSL

**Topic: "DO WE HAVE TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY?"**

Mr. Kimball is an associate Professor of Political Science. He is the co-author of *Why Americans Split Their Tickets*, and he has published articles in several academic journals. His research and teaching include voting and elections, political parties, and interest groups. He recently addressed 2008 election issues on NPR. There will be a question and answer period following his presentation.

**Lunch:** Tilapia, chicken breast in wine sauce, rice pilaf, steamed vegetables, Greek salad, baklava, coffee and tea

**Cost:** \$22.00 per person

Handicapped accessible, with ample parking.

\*On Woods Mill, just south of the intersection of Olive and Woods Mill (next to the First Bank building)

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**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 10, 12:00-3:00

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount encl. (\$22/per person): \_\_\_\_\_

## Environmental Quality Committee

**In April, the Environmental Quality committee will have a night meeting. We will meet at the League Office on Tuesday April 15th.** Bring a brown bag for supper about 5:30 or so and the meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. We hope that those who work outside the home can come directly from work. We are trying a night meeting since it has been requested that we try to offer the opportunity to those who cannot come to day meetings and those who prefer night meetings. We will be reviewing this year's program and thinking about what we wish to do next year. We will also review the Climate Action Summit program that was held on March 8. Also we will plan how and when we may support the Initiative petition drive for a Missouri Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). The LWVMO Supports RES and encourages Local Leagues and individual Members to collect signatures.

**What Does the Petition Say?** The petition would amend Missouri law (not the state Constitution). It would require Missouri 's investor-owned electric utility companies to supply part of their power from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and biomass energy.

The requirement for renewable sources gradually increases from 2% of the company's retail electricity sales in 2011 to 15% in 2021. Two percent of each requirement will be met with solar energy. Utilities may develop their own renewable sources or purchase them from other producers. The PSC and DNR will establish rules for buying and trading renewable energy credits, limiting rate increases to 1%, recovery of prudent utility costs of compliance, and a process of certification and enforcement.

**Why Does the League Support a Renewable Electricity Standard?** A Missouri RES has been a LWVMO legislative priority since 2000. 86% of Missouri 's electricity is generated by coal-fired power plants. Renewable energy generation reduces greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions; health, the economy and the environment benefit. Diversifying electricity sources improves security and reliability of the electric system. RESs stimulate development of new industry and jobs, providing new income sources for farm communities and urban areas. 26 states have already adopted a mandatory renewable electricity standard.

**Why Do We Need An Initiative Petition to Get a Renewable Electricity Standard?** Last year the state legislature failed to pass the mandatory RES supported by LWVMO and many other groups. Instead, a *voluntary* standard was passed and signed into law. An initiative petition is the only way Missouri will get a meaningful RES anytime soon. A statewide coalition coordinated by **Renew Missouri** ([www.renewmo.org](http://www.renewmo.org)) has organized the petition campaign.

130,000 signatures are needed to put the RES on the November 2008 ballot.

**When you are asked to sign this petition, we hope that you will do so and also encourage others.** This is part of our committees goal of providing ways for many individuals, with only a minimum effort, to take a meaningful and active role in EQ matters. Hope to see you at this meeting!

---Betty Maag, Chair



## Housing Committee Forum Saturday, April 5 10a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Light refreshments from 9:30-10:00

**The Housing Committee of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, in conjunction with the St. Louis Public Library, is proud to sponsor an Educational Forum on Eminent Domain and Affordable Housing;**

The forum will address the meaning eminent domain and how it may impact housing.

The audience will become familiar with government and private organizations that support housing developments in the metropolitan area.

Panelists include **Jim Holtzman**, Director of St. Louis County Community Development Agency; **Terry Kennedy**, Alderman of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ward; **Bill Maleck**, President, Gateway Capital Mortgage Corporation; **Avis Landen-Hill**, Family Support Manager, Habitat for Humanity; Attorney **Anthony Martin**, Ombudsman from the State of Missouri; and **Rick Bonasch**, Director of Technical Assistance of the Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance.



## PAKISTAN - Focus of International Relations Committee

The International Relations Committee has completed its work on the LWVUS Immigration Study and has now moved on to a study of the committee's choice. We decided during our regular March meeting to study Pakistan since that country is in the news almost daily. If you have visited or lived in that country or know someone who has and would be willing to share those experiences with us, we would be especially happy to hear from you. We invite all League members interested in our topic to join us and be part of the study; there are numerous topics to choose from: economics, religion, sharia law, history pre- and post-independence, foreign relations, politics, culture.... We meet the second Friday of every month at 10 a.m. at the STL County Library HQ on Lindbergh. You will be welcome.

Judith Smart, IR Chair



## Speakers Bureau

Our great League speakers have been busy: **Mary K. Brown** explaining the presidential primary election process to ESL students in a Parkway class; **Kathleen Farrell** representing the League on a panel at the Missouri history Museum after the film "Iron Ladies of Liberia" and also speaking to young adults at Grace Hill on the importance of registering and voting; **Lynn Tiede** who will speak to a Dress for Success class in Hazelwood on registering and voting; **Kathleen Kelly** who will speak to young adults at the Metropolitan Education & Training Center in Wellston about voting.

---Marjorie Courtney, Speakers Bureau Coordinator

## Want to register voters?



Training is Tuesday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.  
at the  
St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners offices  
#12 Sunnen Drive

Many of you work and want to register voters, but the City and County Boards of Election Commissioners must train during a regular work day and at their offices. Hopefully you can arrange your schedule accordingly.

Melanie Stilson will be training for St. Louis County and Betty Williams will be training for City of St. Louis (at the County Office). When we finish, under the egis of LWV, you can register anyone in Missouri. Training should take about one hour. Please RSVP to the office or with Carol so we will have enough training materials. If you need directions, call the office.

To give you an idea of the need: LWV registered or changed addresses for 1,232 individuals in 2007.



**OTE** Remember the upcoming St. Louis County Municipal Elections are just around the corner on April 8, 2008. We challenge LWVSTL members to become Smart Voters and visit the state of the art Voter Service site. **We also challenge you to tell 5 people about the**

**Smart Voter site brought to you by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis Information Service and Smart Voter of LWV California.** Link from [www.lwvstl.org](http://www.lwvstl.org) or visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for state of the art citizenship and 24/7 Election Information.

**The League of Women Voters of St. Louis has joined WE CAN (Working to Empower Community Action Now) a state-wide coalition, in its effort to prevent an anti-affirmative action initiative from getting on the November Ballot.** Among its members are Jobs with Justice; Focus St. Louis; ACLU; ACORN; labor organizations, RCGA, Metropolitan St. Louis Clergy and other faith based groups.

The League, since the 1960's, has been outspoken in its support of affirmative action programs and policies. If this initiative were to pass, it would amend the Missouri Constitution in such a way as to eliminate many of the educational and employment programs that the League supports.

**The Ballot wording is:**

“Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

Ban state and local government affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment in public contracting, employment, or education based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin unless such programs are necessary to establish or maintain eligibility for federal funding or to comply with an existing court order?”

The petitioners have used misleading language to convince the public that they are proposing an initiative furthering civil rights, even calling themselves the Missouri Civil Rights Institute. It is the opposite of their intentions. The Missouri Constitution does not need an amendment to protect civil rights. It is already there. They have until May 4 to obtain the required number of signatures in six of the nine counties in Missouri. If they do, Missourians will vote on it in the November election. In that case, the League will work vigorously to get the issue defeated at the polls. The League's job, and those of all the members of the coalition, is to participate in the “Decline To Sign” campaign. This is an effort to discourage voters from signing the petition.

A similar constitutional amendment has passed in California, Washington and Michigan. In California, the number of Hispanics, African-Americans and women in the educational system have declined. This year, several other states are being targeted.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Decline to sign the petition
- Urge your family and friends not to sign
- Work as a volunteer at places where the petition is being circulated. This requires a short training course.
- Write a letter as an individual to the editor of one or more papers.

If this amendment passes, civil rights in Missouri will be set back many decades. We cannot let this happen.

--Sydell Shayer

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**Doris Buzzell, LWVSTL President sent the following letter to the LWVUS in response to member comments about program planning at the February Unit Meetings.** She wanted to share her response to National with the LWVSTL members. To LWVUS: “These meetings triggered much interest and many comments on League positions which could not be shared on the official report form. Because of our members enthusiastic involvement in these unit meetings we want to share some of our grassroots concerns with you.”

**Representative Government:**

Voting Rights	Include voting technology; more emphasis on paper trail
Campaign Finance	Possible review; unclear results
Citizens' Rights	Include language about adequate public resources
Presidential:	Oppose signing statements

**International Relations:**

Trade:	More emphasis on environmental
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**Natural Resources/Environmental Protection:**

Resource Mgmt	Address climate control/global warming directly
Land Use	More aggressive position needed
Water Resources	Include water management
Energy	Specify need for research on renewable resources
Nuclear Mgmt	Address nuclear waste directly

**Agriculture:** Needs a restudy

**Social Policy:**

Health Care	Important; review needed, as indicated in report
Gun Control	Important issue; banning semi-automatic weapons
Infrastructure	Public infrastructure needs to be studied”

*Doris Buzzell, President*

## It's Dues Time Again

Members should have received their Annual Dues Notices in the mail in the last few weeks. These are dues for 2008-09. Dues are due March 31 for the year.

- The LWV-STL has gone to a new format on the notices, to bring us up to standard with the Better Business Bureau and best practices. You will find a lot more information on your dues notices now, and we hope it is helpful to you.

Dues are not tax deductible, as the IRS does not consider them a charitable contribution.

If you have any questions about your dues, please don't hesitate to call the office. Your dues help keep our organization viable. And your membership is important to us. We look forward to serving you in 2008-09 as a member of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis. We have great things planned!

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### Selma Schlafman will be 100 years old

On March 26 Selma Schlafman will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Selma may be one of the oldest if not the oldest LWV member in this area and maybe Missouri with continual LWV membership.

Selma was a member of the LWV of University City, served on its board, was active in fund raising with the old Metropolitan Finance Campaign and interested in world affairs and local government. Her late husband, Rubin, also an LWV member, kept everyone alert about local government budgets and attended most University City Council Meetings.

Selma still lives at home, with a full time helper, but no longer leaves her home.

Selma's daughter, Molly Smith, has arranged to honor her mother with two rare materials for the John M. Olin Library at Washington University. The selections are: a book, *Directions to Officers*, by Carrie Chapman Catt and a 17" x 11" broadside printed in December, 1919, that opposed the adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, titled "*The Congress Shall Have Power to Enforce this Article by Appropriate Legislation.*"

If you are interested in saying Happy Birthday, Selma, by making a gift for the purchase of these items, send your tax deductible contribution made payable to Washington University and mail to: Washington University Libraries, Campus Box 1202, One Brooking Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130.

--Carol Portman

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### Would you like to Donate to the League of Women Voters of St. Louis and support Advocacy?

Send your Donation to: League of Women Voters of St. Louis,  
8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

## Judges Say Missouri Could Lose Its Non-Partisan Court Plan

St. Louis, MO -- Two area jurists warned a League of Women Voters audience that Missouri's non-partisan court plan is under attack, and declared that it is necessary to keep the plan to preserve judicial independence in Missouri.

Speaking at an event hosted by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis and sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute

Associate circuit judges Thea Sherry and Mary Pat Schroeder spoke at a League-sponsored program on Jan 23 at the World Trade Center in Clayton. They emphasized that the state's court plan "assures that minority rights are protected against the popular majority," and told their audience that Judicial independence upholds the rule of law, constitutional integrity and the enforcement of law.

The Missouri plan, adopted nearly 50 years ago, has been a model for similar plans in 34 other states, Judge Sherry noted. It is applied in St. Louis City and St. Louis County, and in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties in the Kansas City area, the most populous parts of the state when the plan was adopted. Missouri's other judicial districts elect judges directly.

The plan provides for establishing commissions to propose candidates for each court – five-member commissions for circuit court judgeships and seven-member commissions appellate courts. Each commission screens the applicants, and recommends three candidates for each post, from which the governor chooses one.

The commissions are structured to prevent any one person or group from controlling the process, Judge Sherry emphasized, and the judges are accountable to the voters through election under the retention system. Each new judge must stand for retention after being in office at least one year, after which they serve full terms.

The two judges urged the audience to contact their state legislators to oppose the attempts to undermine the state's non-partisan court plan. Their talk drew many questions from the attentive audience. Becky Clausen arranged the program.



### **Podcast: Bert Brandenburg Discusses the Most Important Fair & Impartial Court Topics in 2008 (from LWVUS)**

The [League of Women Voters Safeguarding U.S. Democracy Team](#) sat down with Bert Brandenburg, the executive director of the [Justice at Stake Campaign](#) to discuss the most important topics facing the courts in 2008, voter guides, and how League members can effectively get involved in protecting our courts. The Justice at Stake campaign is a nonpartisan, nationwide partnership of more than 45 judicial, legal, and citizen organizations and ally in the League's efforts to promote a fair and impartial judiciary. **To listen to the podcast, copy and paste the link below into your web browser.**

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=10761&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>