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, 2009

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

Recently I received an inquiry from another League about how we recognized long-time League members. The truth is that until they have been a member for fifty years we really have no formal recognition procedure---many (never enough) thank-yous and occasional articles, but that is about it. We are most fortunate to have people like Sydell Shayer, Carol Portman, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall and---the list goes on---who continue to actively contribute their years of experience, energy and dedication to our League.

Then there are a whole bunch of people who have only been actively involved in the League for ten or twenty years. They are drawn to the League because of its mission to promote good government, as well as opportunities for stimulating discussions and personal growth. I found myself thinking "so many to thank for doing so much."

While we are working to attract new members with new ideas, we owe a world of gratitude to those whose efforts and support have made our League the respected organization it is today.

Doris Buzzell

2008-2009 LWV ST. LOUIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR

Apr. 8-11			April Units	pg 2	
Thurs.	Apr. 2	10:00 AM	Health Care Committee	pg 3	Cape Albeon Ret. Com.
Tues.	**Apr. 7**	**6:00 AM – 7:00 PM**	**Election Day**		
Fri.	Apr. 10	10:00 AM	International Relations Committee	pg 3	County Library
Tues.	Apr. 14	5:30 PM	Environmental Quality Committee	pg 3	League Office
Tues.	Apr. 14	6:30 PM	LWV & Focus Forum	pg 6	UMSL
Sat..	Apr. 18	9:30 AM	Education Committee	pg 3	League Office
Thurs.	Apr. 23	10:00 AM	Field Trip	pgs.3&5	Resource Management Co.
Sat.	Apr. 25	2:00 PM	Local Government Committee	pg 4	League Office
Sat.-Sun.	May 2-3	MO State Convention (see MO Voter Mar/April Issue)			Jefferson City
Sat.	May 9	11:30 AM	St. Louis Annual Meeting	pg 7	Spazio-Westport

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

Unit Choice

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON
April 23
Topic: Recycling Tour

FIELD TRIP
Leader: Carol Portman
314-726-3269

See Environmental Quality articles for trip information on pages 3 & 5.

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD
Wednesday, April 8
9:30 a.m. meeting

HOME OF LOIS BLISS
131 East Adams, #2C
314-965-0092
Leader: Mary Long
314-849-7045

Topic: Speaker Marian McCord of the Chads Coalition.

Directions: Corner of Adams & Kirkwood Road, on right next to the Commerce Bank.

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR
Thursday April 9
9:30 a.m. meeting
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER
709 Champeix Lane
314-434-5116
Leader: Marion Stuvland
636-391-7589

Topic: Speaker David Kuschel, Ex. Dir. Of the Cooperating School District – economic Development & Public Education.

Directions: 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, April 9
7:00 p.m.

LEAGUE OFFICE
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
314-961-6869
Leader: Esther Clark
314-416-0366

Topic: Joan Esserman will present "Education reform: What kind of schools should we want?"

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT
Saturday, April 11
10:30 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH
Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314-773-8719

Topic: Catching up with the City
Directions: Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar.

Enid Tennebaum, Vice President

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations (IR) Committee will meet on April 10 at 10 a.m. in the County Library HQ, across the street from Plaza Frontenac. This is the first meeting of our new year, the time when we choose a new topic of study, perhaps another country, CEDAW, the United Nations, etc. We especially want to invite members new to the League who have expressed an interest in international studies. The April 2 Great Decisions program at the Ethical Society will be held at noon - topic Universal Human Rights.

Judith Smart, IR Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

SHOW ME YOUR SOLUTIONS

The League of Women Voters of Missouri has joined the Pew Center on Global Climate Change and a number of other organizations in Missouri in a project to show policymakers and the public the benefits of greening Missouri's economy. The coalition will collect information on the activities of individuals, organizations, companies and communities in Missouri that are taking action to address climate change. These efforts will be featured in pictures and short narratives on the website www.showmeyoursolutions.org. There are already several interesting examples posted on the site. I encourage you to visit the website to see some of the ways people are taking action.

You can become part of the Show Me Your Solutions project. If you know of an effort that would fit into this project, submit the information by clicking on the box "submit your solutions". An alternative would be to suggest that the individual or organization submit their story. If you do not have access, to the internet contact the League office and your submission can be made from the office computer. We are interested in the impact our organization is having on this effort so, if you make a submission to the website or suggest that someone make a submission, please let the office know. This is an opportunity to show what is being done on a local level by creative individuals determined to do their part to address global climate change.

RECYCLING TOUR

A tour of the Resource Management Company has been arranged for Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. The company is located at 4375 Rider Trail North in Earth City. The tour will feature information on how the material we collect for recycling is sorted, processed and prepared for use in recycled products. We will see the state-of-the-art machinery directly or by video, learn of the economic benefits of recycling, and hear about some of the many uses for recycled materials. There will also be a discussion of the current market for recycled materials. There will be ample time for your questions. It should be an interesting and timely tour. There are space limitations, so call the office to make your reservations.

The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Committee will be Tuesday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the League office.

Nancy Bowser, Environmental Quality Chair

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, April 2 in the private dining room at Cape Albeon. Our meeting will begin at 10am and will be over by noon.

I will ask that those attending the program given by Dr. Nathanial Murdock at 6:30 pm on Thursday March 19th at the Ethical Society be prepared to report on the lecture and open the meeting to discussion.

We have been invited to a panel discussion given by OWL (Older Women's League) at Ladue Chapel on Tuesday April 21st beginning at 6 PM on "Health Care: An Intergenerational Necessity for Women" Flyers have been sent to those on the committee. Ladue Chapel is located at 9450 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63124.

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 meet on Saturday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the League office. Everyone is welcome. Marty Rulo will be the new chairman. Thanks to Georgia Archibald, previous chairman.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The committee will meet April 25, 2 pm at the League office. Everyone welcome.

Kathleen Farrell, Chair

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Requests for March and April for speakers from the League have come from a church group and a middle school group. Our good volunteers K Wentzien and Arlene Nickels will be representing us.

Marjorie Courtney, Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP

League member Amy Barker was named Teacher of the Year at Kirkwood High School where she teaches English. Amy's mother Sue Dellbringge is a long time Leaguer.

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

In memory of Georgia Mertens, Janice Dahl's mother, from Rebecca Clausen to LWV St. Louis and from Doris Buzzell, Jeanne Morrel-Franklin, & Sydell Shayer to LWV Information Service.

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UNIT PROGRAMS

CLAYTON/UNIVERSITY CITY UNIT

The Clayton/University City Unit will not meet the second Tuesday. Instead we will go on the EQ on April 23. (The idea to visit this facility in Earth City came from our February Unit.)

CREVE COEUR/CHESTERFIELD UNIT

David Kuschel, Assistant Executive Director of the Cooperating School Districts will speak on economic Development and Public Education.

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD EVENING UNIT

Joan Esserman will present "Education reform: What kind of schools should we want?"

WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD DAY UNIT

The program for the April Webster/Kirkwood Unit meeting on April 8th, at 9:30 a.m. will be presented by Marian McCord of Chads Coalition. We will meet at the home of Lois Bliss, 131 East Adams, #2C. All are welcome to attend.

Chads Coalition was founded in memory of Chad McCord to educate communities about adolescent depression and suicide. Accomplishments from 2008:

* Dr. Joan Luby from Washington University was awarded a $30,000 Research Grant.

* Dr. Kelly Botteron from Washington University was awarded a second year Research Grant Extension of $36,000.

* Funded 4 summer student fellowships at Washington University to study early onset mood disorders.

* School year 2007-2008 implemented the SOS program at twenty local schools.

Mary Long, Unit Leader

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Topic for the St. Louis City Unit will be "Catching Up with the City."

TOUR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPANY
Thursday, April 23 10:00 a.m.

4375 Rider Trail North, Earth City

Learn what happens to those newspapers, bottles and cans. See Environmental Quality Committee report for details on pages 3&4. **Space is limited, call the office for reservations 314 961-6869**. Directions: Exit I-70 at Earth City Expy. North (exit 231B), stay on Expressway 1.6 miles to Rider Trail North, left onto Rider Trail North for ½ mile (4th driveway past railroad tracks), building is on the right.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE STUDY

The subject of the February units was the National Popular Vote. The five members of the study committee, Linda McDaniel, Sydell Shayer, Eve Golden, Norma Jean Downey and Marty Ott thank all the participants at the units who made this experience a great success. There were 61 League members in attendance plus a few guests. They provided lively discussion and lots of perspectives on the subject. We arrived at agreement through the traditional League consensus method, not by counting votes. This was a challenge at some of the meetings but lots of fun. The committee had a ball and took every opportunity to have a meeting because we enjoyed it so much. We anxiously await the final consensus result from the national League. Because this is a national study, it is only the final results, after all the Leagues across the country have their reports in and tallied, that we will know the new League position.

From the LWVSTL NPV study committee who now consider themselves a team

WOMEN'S HISTORY

In 1868, Virginia L. Minor, a resident of Missouri, attempted to vote but was denied. She believed the newly adopted 14th Amendment gave her this right because the Amendment begins with these words:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States, and of the State wherein they reside."

Her husband sued on her behalf because women were not allowed to sue at that time. In 1874, in *Minor v. Happerstett*, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected Minor's claim. While it agreed that she was a person and a citizen, the Court declared that the Constitution did not grant women the right to vote. Thus, the Court placed women in the same class as children and felons who don't have the right to vote either.

The overall effect of this ruling was to tell women if they wanted this right, they would have to amend the Constitution. They finally succeeded 46 years later in 1920.

In 1973, history mirrored itself in the case of *Frontiero v Richardson*.

In a 5-4 decision the Court struck down federal law giving benefits only under certain circumstances to husbands of female Air Force personnel, while giving benefits automatically to wives of male personnel. Justice William Brennan attempted to have sex declared a suspect classification because "sex is an immutable characteristic."

A majority of the court acknowledged that, *"Our nation has had a long and unfortunate history of sex discrimination."* However, in a 5-4 decision, the Court declined to rule sex as suspect saying, *"The proposed Equal Rights Amendment will decide this question."* The Court did not wish to interfere with the ERA ratification process that was underway at that time.

Although the Court found in favor of the plaintiff, it also ruled that in order to have sex discrimination viewed with the same judicial weight and strict scrutiny as race discrimination; women would have to gain ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Laura Callow, NW Wayne County LWV, Michigan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The League of Women Voters is a relevant organization. For some of you, that sentence qualifies as stating the obvious. For others, the gradual decline in membership numbers may have caused you to doubt. As someone with a fresh view of the mission of the League of Women Voters, let me give your self-confidence a boost.

I am impressed and intrigued by what I see in action here: knowledgeable citizens, vigorous research, lively discussion, passionate members, voter registration, candidate forums, dedicated volunteers, informative publications, financial support, public education, legislative agenda, creative events, and community improvement. These are the marks of an organization filled with vitality and poised for the next 90 years of service.

Anna Mennerick

LWVIS ANNUAL THEATRE PARTY
March 29, 2009 at 1:00 pm

REMINDER:

It is not too late to purchase a ticket for only $55 to the League's Information Service 21st anniversary theatre party. The performance will be followed by a gala reception. Just call the League office 314- 961- 6869.

This year's performance by Prison Performing Arts will be at the Centene Center of the Arts, 3547 Olive Street in the Grand Center area. The Centene Center is just east of Grand Blvd.; however the street is one way going west. There is ample free parking on the street. There is also a parking lot adjacent to the east side of the Centene Center for $5.00. The building opens at 12:15 and seating begins at 12:30.

Remember that Highway 40 is closed east of Inner Belt 170. Forest Park Parkway is a good alternative.

See you at the Centene Center!

Sydell Shayer, Chair

SAVE THE DATE!!!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 9 11:30-2:00 SPAZIO @ WESTPORT

SPEAKER: JUDGE JIMMIE M. EDWARDS, CIRCUIT JUDGE

22ND JUDICIAL COURT OF MISSSOURI

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOBBY DAY

Tuesday, March 31 8:30 AM Alcove on Third Floor $15 Registration (includes breakfast rolls Governor Mansion's tour from 1:30 – 2:00 pm. & lunch)

Send check payable to LWVMO to League Office, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK LOBBY DAY

MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK LOBBY DAY-April 14, 2009, at the State Capitol, Jefferson City from 8 am through 1 pm. For information call Shirley Breeze at 314-831-5359. Registration fee is $10.00. Deadline for reservations is April 10th.

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.*

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CANDIDATE FORUMS REPORT
March 16, 2009

Date	Organization	Office	Location	Status
Mar. 24	Wildwood City Council	City Council Members	Wildwood City Hall 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Set
Mar 30	Mayoral Candidates	St. Louis City	Central Library 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Set
Mar. 31	Parkway School District	School Board Members	South Middle School 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Set
Mar. 31	Crestwood & Sunset Hills Chamber of Commerce	Sunset HillsAlderman/-woman	South Technical High School 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Set
Apr. 1	LWV	University City School Board	University City Library 7:15 p.m.	Set

COMMUNITY FORUM WITH FOCUS

Our next community forum collaboration with FOCUS St. Louis will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 14 at the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL). The topic will be the economic crisis. Speakers will be the director of the Public Policy Research Center and a Federal Reserve Bank economist. The speakers will talk about the mortgage crisis and wider implications.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING
THE TIME IS NOW!!

OWL - THE VOICE OF MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN
Presents

Health Care:
An Intergenerational Necessity for Women

Moderator: Carol A. Weir, CEO, Tower Village Senior Services

Distinguished Panelists include:

Ashley B. Carson, J.D., Washington D.C., the Executive Director of Owl. Prior to joining Owl, Carson worked as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children (CASA). She also worked as part of the Vermont Long-Term Care Ombudsman Project where she visited long-term care facilities, met with residents, and advocated for reform to guardianship laws. She completed an in-depth research project on elder abuse and volunteered on a domestic violence hotline.

Laura M. Young, Ph.D., Washington D.C., former Executive Director of OWL from 2002-2007, now Acting Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. Dr. Young expanded OWL's presence on Capitol Hill and helped OWL launch a National Older Americans' Mental Health Week. Dr. Young, a psychotherapist, was a Senior Vice President for the National Mental Health Association.

Joan B. Bernstein, Esq., Massachusetts, former practicing St. Louis attorney, president of the St Louis OWL chapter, and member of the National Board. She is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and co-authored with Merton C. Bernstein, *Social Security: the System that Works,* Basic Books, 1988. She and her husband have written numerous articles on Social Security, Medicare and universal health insurance. She was a lecturer at both Washington and Webster Universities.

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Ladue Chapel
9450 Clayton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63124

Refreshments and Social Hour: 6 p.m.
Program: 7 p.m.
Free
Bring your daughters, mothers, sisters!

R.S.V.P. OWL Office - 314-725-5862 or Executive. Director - 314-691-2333
For further information, contact Myrna Fichtenbaum, committee chair, at 314-726-0759