



IN LEAGUE REPORTER - December 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:

First, let me wish each of you a very happy Thanksgiving. If you did not go to the LWV Missouri Fall Conference, you missed a great meeting with Leaguers from across the state. Janis McMillen from Kansas and our liaison with LWV of the United States brought us up to date on health care and the League's action which was a perfect follow up to our units this month. We learned that due to climate change the planting zone for Missouri has changed from 6 to 5. See later in this newsletter (pg. 5) for an article on the Fall Conference.

The League year is off to a very busy start and I want to thank many who are making the League all it is: Kathleen Kelly and her band of thirty six who conducted the Housing Authority Elections; Carol Portman and Leaguers who help register new citizens to vote (last year more than 1,500); Mary Long, Pat Jones (& daughters) who developed a slide show about the League – soon to be on our web site it received many compliments when shown at the Fall Conference; Katharine Kilpatric and the members of the Health Care Committee; Judith Smart and Rea Kleeman who presented at the Forum on the United Nations; Nancy Bowser and the members of the Environmental Quality Committee; Esther Clark, Brenda Banjak, Susan Fluegel, Mickey Hall, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mary Beth Reynolds, and Sue Dellbringge who covered the phones for the election. As they say I am sure I am forgetting someone, but appreciate all efforts. I would like to offer you each an invitation to join future endeavors.

I want to bring a special meeting to your attention. It is on climate change and how it affects the world (details on pg.2). There is a short film and a speaker. I think you will leave the meeting inspired. I hope to see you on December 8th at the University City Library at 7:00 p.m.

Please begin your Holidays with the League on Saturday December 5th at the Holiday Luncheon (pg. 13) for an excellent speaker and a fun silent auction --- you might even be able to complete your Santa list. See you there!

Linda C. McDaniel

2009-2010 LWV ST. LOUIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Ed. Nancy Miller

CALENDAR

Sat.	Dec.	5	11-2pm	Holiday Luncheon & Silent Auction	Pg. 13	Café Demenil
Tues.	Dec.	8	7pm	Environmental Quality Comm. Sisters on the Planet Presentation	Pg. 10	U. City Library Aud.
Fri.	Dec.	11	10 am	International Relations Comm.	Pg. 10	St Louis Cnty Lib. Hdqtrs
Sat.	Dec.	12	10:30am	City Unit Meeting	Pg. 11	Trinity Church
Thurs.	Dec.	17	5-10pm	Winter Wonderland	Pg. 3	Tilles Park
	Dec.	24 – Jan. 1		Office Closed - Holidays		

UPCOMING EVENTS



Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction Dec. 5th

[a repeat of previous successful holiday auctions]

Put the **YOU** in our auction.

You can donate a new or “looks like new” item for the silent auction.

You can shop for a unique gift for someone else or for yourself.

You will make a difference to the finances of the League.

Please bring your items to the League office before December 2 if you can. The most important **YOU** is for **YOU** to attend the 2009 Holiday Luncheon. And **YOU** can bring a friend with you. Reservation details p. 11



THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Presentation of the film ***SISTERS ON THE PLANET***

and

Speaker: Tom Mitchell,
Chairperson of the Missouri (United Methodist Church)
Conference Mozambique Initiative

Tuesday, December 8

7:00 p.m.

University City Public Library Auditorium
6701 Delmar Boulevard
(elevator available next to circulation desk)

WINTER WONDERLAND



It might be windy or wet and it is pretty certain to be chilly but we hope you will volunteer to help collect money at the Tilles Park Wonderland **on December 17.**

We need 6 people from 5:00 to 7:30 and 6 people from 7:30 until 10:00. Dress warmly—they have heaters in the booths, but mostly you will be outside the booth.

Remember—the League will receive a check for \$500 for our efforts. Also, you may drive through the display as you leave, and all our visitors have a great time.

Please call Barbara Elbrecht at 314.962.2821 to sign up. We will really appreciate your help.

Barbara Elbrecht, Chair

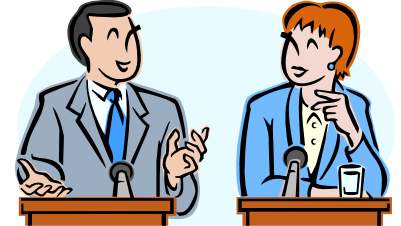
The St Louis County Parks Department has chosen us to work again at the Winter Wonderland!

LOOKING AHEAD to 2010

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

Join Us at 6 pm in the Sunnen Lounge, University Center, Webster University



Upcoming Presentation:

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

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

Women's Issues Legislative Retreat
Jefferson City

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 8th - 9th

Learn how legislators make an impact in Jefferson City and what can be expected from the 2010 Legislative Session. For more information email sbreeze@mindspring.com or gbutler111@aol.com



League of Women Voters Information Service Presents

Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them

A play by **Christopher Durang** *Winner of the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Writers Award, the Sidney Kingsley Playwright Award and nominated for the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize.*

Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them is by playwright Christopher Durang. Political humor is turned upside down with this hilarious and provocative satire about America's "War on Terror." *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them* tells the story of a young woman suddenly in crisis: Is her new husband, whom she married when drunk, a terrorist? Or just crazy? Or both? Is her father's hobby of butterfly collecting really a cover for his involvement in a shadow government? Don't feel guilty about laughing hard at this new black comedy for an era of yellow, orange and red alerts.

Saturday February 13

1:30-2:30 - Buffet Reception

3:00-5:30 - Performance

Doors open at 2:30

Kranzberg Arts Center

Located in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri Building

501 N. Grand Ave., St. Louis, MO

Presented by:



\$55 per person

*Sponsorships Available**

\$500 - 6 tickets, reserved seating

\$300 - 4 tickets reserved seating

\$150 - 2 tickets, reserved seating

**sponsors will be acknowledged in the program*



A BENEFIT PERFORMANCE TO SUPPORT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS INFORMATION SERVICE

Proceeds support voter education, information and service in the Greater St. Louis Community.

For Tickets call 314-961-6869

League of Women Voters Information Service is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, nonpartisan community service organization that provides information and services that enables an active, informed, electorate. Its work is made possible in part through donations from the community and the gifts of time and funds from the members of the League of Women Voters. HotCity Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional theatre company produces contemporary, issue-oriented works of theatre that challenge and inspire St. Louis area audiences. HotCity also develops new theatrical works, encourages diversity, and through educational outreach nurtures a life-long passion for theatre. It is funded, in part, by the Fox Associates Foundation, Regional Arts Commission, and Missouri Arts Council.

REPORTS:

League of Women Voter of Missouri Fall Conference

Saturday Evening, November 14, 2009, wishing you had been there.

I just returned from Sedalia, Missouri, a three hour drive from St. Louis where I, and five other members of the St. Louis League, attended the State League Fall Conference.

It was a wonderful experience and I wish that each of our League members could have been there. Over fifty League members representing each of the eight Leagues in Missouri assembled to have a day of learning, sharing and camaraderie. I have not been to a Fall Conference in several years and you would think that after being a League member for over 50 years one would have had enough of this kind of stuff, but not so.

Over half the attendees never attended a state meeting before. Each of the attendees displayed his or her enthusiasm for the League, and was eager to share successes and get new ideas to try out. What is so amazing to me is that some of the Leagues in Missouri have very small memberships, no more members than attend one unit of our League. Yet they do as much or more than we do. Being in a small community gives them much more visibility for the same kinds of activities that we do.

The keynote speaker was Janis McMillen, chair of the LWFVUS Task Force on Health Care. Janis is also the national League board liaison to our League. She explained the League's health care position, noting that despite the fact that consensus was taken in the 80's it is as relevant today as when we took it. She explained in detail the health care bill passed in the House, filling in the details that you do not find in the media.

There were give and take sessions on membership recruitment, early voting, development, state League activities and Capwiz.

Capwiz is a computer service that allows organizations and individuals to match specific constituents to specific elected officials for e-mail action alerts, and reports back how many of the targeted members actually respond to the alerts. Capwiz has many applications and we are just beginning to understand its potential.

Believe it or not the development report was one of the most fun portions of the day. It was centered on the League's 90th anniversary which will take place in 2010. Save the afternoon of Saturday, April 24 for the big celebration here in St. Louis. The event gives us a great opportunity to be creative. We will have many new products to sell, things League members will enjoy owning and that will hopefully fill the state and local League coffers. Some of you have seen or even purchased the new League mugs with the 90th anniversary logo. Lapel pins are to be delivered soon. We can buy League stickers to put on the backs of envelopes to advertise the League name or anywhere else. But the most exciting fund raising activity is the quilt raffles.

League members and friends have made two beautiful quilts commemorating outstanding women in the fight for women's rights. They are being raffled off with the winner of one chosen at the 90th anniversary event and the other at the LWFVUS convention next June. You will be able to buy a raffle for one or both of the quilts at \$5.00 a raffle starting immediately. For sure they will be available at the holiday luncheon on December 5 which we anticipate will be a great event. A picture of the quilt will be on the state League website shortly.

Continued from page 5

But the really exciting part of the development activity which permeated the whole day was a series of spontaneous financial donations to the state League which also bought a “seat at the table”. (A ticket to the 90th event luncheon) Let me explain. Knowing the state League’s urgent need for funds, during one of the presentations a member quietly wrote a check for \$90 and gave it to Anna Mennerick, our Executive Director. Anna took the opportunity to interrupt the meeting and to stand up and yell out “Mary! Mary! We just received \$90 from Betty Ann Gilbert and she now has a seat at the table.” That started the ball rolling. During the day every once in awhile, Anna would stand up, interrupt the meeting with another announcement of a \$90 donation to the League. We hope that many more members of the League will follow suit with a \$90 check which will admit you to the luncheon (cost \$40) and the rest will help the Missouri League.

I could go on and on with all the activities that the state League is participating in but hopefully you will find that out in the next State Voter. In the meantime, enjoy our products, help fill the state coffers, be glad you had St. Louis attendees at the fall conference, try to remember to attend next year and come to our holiday party on December 5.

Sydell Shayer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Autumn gives us the beginning of school, beautiful fall colors, baseball postseason, and the start of the League’s Meetings and Events for 2009-2010! Our Fall Meet and Greet Happy Hour for prospective members was a rousing success. We are proud to report the addition of at least five new members to our roster as a result of the Meet and Greet! Please keep in mind that we plan to have more of these evening events in the future to help build our membership.

The December 5th Holiday Luncheon is another wonderful opportunity for member recruitment. Please plan on inviting at least one potential member to this festive luncheon. Our speaker, Carol Shepley, has received rave reviews from those who have heard her speak at other venues. Don’t miss out on this chance to introduce a friend to the League by inviting her (or him) to the luncheon.

The League can only be as strong as its most active members. **ASK** someone to the Dec. 5 Luncheon, **ASK** someone to the next Unit Meeting, **ASK** someone to the next Happy Hour. We are all part of Membership!

Pat Jones
Membership Co-Chair
314-842-9383
PatJones@lwwstl.org

Mary Long
Membership Co-Chair
314-849-7045
MaryLong@lwwstl.org



Let's Grow

Our League needs twenty –four new League members by the end of December to qualify for an additional delegate to the League's national convention. We may send three but we surely would like to send four. An under tapped source for new members is in our own household. For \$20 dollars over regular dues, any member of your household, spouse, daughter, son, mother or other resident who is a citizen, 18 years or older may become a member. So many of the members of our households are supportive of our League activities, joining themselves is a natural next step.

I just counted the number of household members we have and to my surprise there are 39 such members. That is great but we can even do better.

Please ACT today. Send a check for \$20 to the League office, LWVSTL, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. Give the name of your household member. **Watch our membership grow.**

Sydell Shayer

HOUSING AUTHORITY ELECTION REPORT:

Thanksgiving To All Who Helped With St. Louis Housing Authority Election!

Due to space limitations, I need to keep my expression of gratitude short! My sincerest thanks go out to Kathleen Farrell and Julian Long, Janice and Bill Dahl, Linda McDaniel, Becky Clausen, Debbie Howard, Anna Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Betty Maag, Lolly Wehrli, Susan Fluegel, K Wentzien, Sue Dellbringge, Marge Wilson, Carol Portman, Mary Long, Lori Calcaterra, Julie Behrens, Doris Buzzell, Mary Brown, Sydell and Larry Shayer, Agnes Garino, Norma Jean Downey, Patti Wally, Bebe Catanzaro, Esther Clark, Marge Courtney, RoseMarie Smoot, Ida West, Dixie Buford, Nancy Bowser, Brent Feeney, Katharine Kilpatric and Mary Beth Reynolds.

Kathleen Kelly

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

In honor of Sydell Shayer being named one of the St. Andrew's Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans for 2009 from Marge and Herb Bilinsky to LWV St. Louis

In honor of Cindy Mitchell, K Wentzien & Sue Dellbringge in appreciation for their work on the audit committee from Doris Buzzell to LWV St. Louis. *Their dedication and diligence benefits all of us; and the report clarifies the League's untenable financial position. Doris Buzzell*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in a fascinating short term project? There are several recordings of interviews with League leaders that we would like to have transcribed. They will come to you in the form of a CD and we would like the interviews in the final form of a word document. If you or anyone you know might be able to help us out please contact Anna at the office - 314/961-6869 or AnnaMennerick@lwvstl.org

SILENT AUCTION at HOLIDAY PARTY on DECEMBER 5th

Come prepared to buy! We will have a nice collection of items for holiday giving. Please contact Kathleen Kelly if you have something you can donate to the auction. 314.533.3972 or dkbkmk01@swbell.net.

Kathleen Kelly

COMMITTEES AT WORK

EDUCATION COMMITTEE



The Education Committee will be meeting on November 21st at 9:30 a.m. at the League office.

Marty Rulo, Chair

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE



As a follow-up to the excellent presentations by the Health Care Committee members in November, The In League is printing the National League of Women Voters' Position on Health care which was first written in 1993 and is still the League's position. (next page)

Katharine Kilpatric

**Statement of Position on Health Care, as
Announced by LWV National Board,
April 1993:**

GOALS: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/ patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION: The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

TAXES: The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

COST CONTROL: The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- * the reduction of administrative costs,
- * regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- * the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- * malpractice reform,
- * the use of managed care,
- * utilization review of treatment,
- * mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- * consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

EQUITY ISSUES: The League believes that

- * allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- * providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- * standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- * requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- * establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO

INDIVIDUALS: The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE



SISTERS ON THE PLANET

We hear a lot about global climate change and the melting of the polar ice cap, retreating glaciers or the potential for rising sea levels. These dangers can seem remote, almost academic. But around the world, people are facing the effects of extreme weather events that make efforts to alleviate poverty and conquer disease all the more difficult.

Join us on **Tuesday, December 8** for a screening of *Sisters on the Planet* a short film featuring the inspirational stories of four women and how they are fighting back against the extraordinary climate challenges they face. The film was produced by OxFam America and will introduce our discussion of the effect of global climate change on developing countries and aid efforts. Our speaker will be Tom Mitchell, the Chairperson of the Missouri United Methodist Church Conference Mozambique Initiative. Tom has on the ground experience with aid projects in Mozambique.

Funding for this event is provided by OXFAM of America and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the University City Public Library. Details on page 2.

Nancy Bowser, Chair

There will be no Environmental Quality Committee meeting in December.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will hold its regular meeting on Friday, December 11th, at 10 am at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters building at Lindbergh and Clayton Rd.

Judith Smart, IR Chair

EARLY VOTING CONSENSUS STUDY COMMITTEE

The Early Voting Consensus Study Committee will meet on November 30th at 5:30 pm at the League Office.

The St. Louis Early Voting Study Committee will be presenting a preview of the consensus study at the January Unit meetings. The complete study with consensus questions is scheduled for the February Unit meetings.

The early voting study was submitted by the Greater Kansas City League of Women Voters and approved May, 2009 LWV – Missouri State Convention. A State Committee was established, co-chaired by Cheryl Barnes and Donna Hoch.

The scope of the study will be the methods of early voting for the purpose of a way of removing barriers, improving access to voting and increasing voter turnout. This includes early in-person voting, no excuse absentee voting/vote by mail.

Currently, Missouri allows only absentee voting-excuse required. To vote by mail, voters must apply for an absentee ballot and complete a form, checking one of five acceptable reasons why they will not be able to vote on Election Day. To be counted, all mail in absentee ballots must be notarized. In-person excuse required absentee voting is allowed 6 weeks before an election at the local election authority's central office. In November, 2008 Missouri had 323,776 absentee votes cast (11.1%). More than 7,000 ballots were not counted because they were not notarized or received by the statutory deadline.

No excuse absentee voting allows a person to vote in person or by mail without a required excuse.

Early in-person voting allows a person to vote in a booth at a polling location set up before Election Day.

Voting by mail allows a person to request a ballot be sent and may send the ballot back by mail.

Our question is does the single day voting and our current absentee process create barriers to voting? Would the adoption of early voting and / or no-excuse absentee voting reduce barriers and increase access to the polls?

To learn more about Early Voting members may go to <http://groups.google.com/group/lwvmo-early-voting-study/files>

Marty Ott, Chair

Unit Meetings

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday , December 12th
10:30 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH

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

The St. Louis City unit will be having a potluck brunch and sharing stories of St. Louis League history. Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar For ride or more information contact Betty Ann or Kathleen

All other unit meetings will resume in January.

2009 – 2010 Discussion Topics for Units

December - Holiday Lunch and Silent Auction – December 5th
January - Program Planning for LWVUS + Intro. Early Voting Consensus
February - Early Voting Consensus
March - International Relations



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Once again we wish to take time to thank the Leaguers who answer the call, “Can you come into the office and help with ??????” Those who helped this time around were: Brenda Banjak, Barb Behiter, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Sue Dellbringge, Susan Fluegel, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Pat Jones, Mary Parker, Mary Beth Reynolds, Kristine Wentzien, and Margo Wentzien. We couldn’t have done it without YOU. THANK YOU!!!!

Julie Behrens, Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

I had a wonderful experience in Sedalia attending both the LWVMO board meeting and the Fall Conference. I was struck by the depth of commitment shown by The League and its members to the idea of Health Care reform and coverage for all. The position was formed in 1993 after a two year study. Our new slide show features Linda McDaniel at the capital in 1994 holding a sign that read “MISSOURI HEALTHCARE FOR ALL NOW”. Our LWVUS Health Director shared both the league position on Health Care and how the League has evaluated and worked for reform options.

The current legislation before the Senate may not result in health care for all now. But I know that the League will persist until reform that meets our consensus goals does pass. And then we will review and assess the ability of that policy to meet the goal of health care for all. The commitment we show to positions is enduring. Once a sound policy is adopted League members work tirelessly, without regard to campaign donations or news cycles. Our commitment to good government that works for the benefit of all citizens has been and continues to be the hallmark of the League of Women Voters.

Anna Mennerick

St. Louis League of Women Voters Holiday Luncheon

And Silent Auction

Saturday, December 5, 2009

11:30 - 2:00

Café Demenil at the Historic Chatillon-Demenil House

3353 Demenil Place, 63118

*Come . . . Celebrate with excellent food, friends, an Outstanding Speaker
and the ambiance of historic St. Louis.*



Reservations Required by November 30th—314.961.6869 - league@lwvstl.org

Doors open at 11:30 am

Lunch at 12:00 noon

Choices: Spinach salad, Stuffed Baked Breast of Chicken w/mushroom sauce, rice

Or Field Greens w/asiago and Vinaigrette, Sauteed Portabella mushrooms,
Artichoke & Red Pepper Penne

Dessert: Caramel & Roasted Walnut Bread Pudding

Coffee or Tea

Speaker: Author, Carol Ferring Shepley “Women and Men Who Fought for the Vote”

Presenting at 1:00 pm

Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Luncheon Reservations @ \$ 17.00 each

Choose one _____ chicken breast OR _____ salad

_____ House Tour @ \$5.00 each

Choose one _____ 10:00 _____ 2:15

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of St. Louis.

Mail to LWV of St. Louis, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144



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IN LEAGUE REPORTER

