



IN LEAGUE REPORTER – FEBRUARY 2010
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:

Happy 2010, I do not know about you but I wonder where did 2009 go. But I do know that the League year will have a lot going on in the months ahead.

We will have consensus meetings in February to determine a possible position on early voting. If we arrive at a state position, there will be the opportunity to lobby in this legislative session which has just begun. Plan to attend units to be a part of determining the League position. Remember Democracy is a Participatory Sport.

There is still time to contact your Representative and Senator about health care legislation in the US Congress. We need comprehensive health care reform that will extend coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans providing funding for those who cannot afford it implemented through a public option. Be a part of something that is historic.

The April elections are just around the corner and there are already requests for candidate meetings. If you would like to be a timer, monitor or just a helper call the office and talk to Anna at 314.961.6869. And the League will be producing Voters Guides. Help is needed with that, too.

When the League office staff, Anna and Julie, recount some of the phone calls they get, I am reminded how the community relies on the League for answers about how to contact their legislator, about the legislative or executive process in Jefferson City and in their own town. We continue with the tasks the League has done for 90 years, informing ourselves and the public about issues and processes. I know we and our daughters and sons will continue that work because of the importance of knowing how we govern ourselves and how to work to make it better. Together we can do this work, have fun doing it with some special people whom we call friends after the “job” is done.

Linda C. McDaniel

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- Marty Rulo
- Sydell Shayer
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CALENDAR

Thurs.	Feb.	4	10 am	Health Care Committee	Pg. 5	Cape Albion
Fri.	Feb.	12	10 am	International Relations Comm.	Pg. 5	St Louis Cnty Lib. Hdqtrs
	Feb.	9-13		Unit Meetings	Pg. 12	Voting Consensus Study
Tues.	Feb.	9	5:30 pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	Pg. 5	League Office
Sat.	Feb.	13	9:30 am	Education Committee	Pg. 5	League Office
Sat.	Feb.	13	1:30 pm	Theater Party Buffet	Pg. 14	Kransberg Art Center
			3:00 pm	Performance		

REPORTS:

WINTER WONDERLAND

We were so lucky! After so many nights of rain, snow, bitter cold and wind – we had a great evening with the temperature in the 30s, no wind and no moisture of any kind.

We had a great time with lots of carriages and cars full of happy people. Lots of excited children ready for Christmas and it was amazing how many people brought their dogs! Dogs of all sizes—one SUV had a St. Bernard standing in the back and one lady brought her cat.

Thanks to all who volunteered—Marj Courtney, Kathleen Farrell, Mary Beth Reynolds, Denny and Elise Joerger, Esther Clark, Doris Buzzell, K wentzien, Billie Teneau and her friend, Alan Ranford.

It was a wonderful evening and our check for \$500 arrived yesterday. We're looking forward to next year.

Barbara Elbrecht

MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK RETREAT

The Missouri Women's Network (MWN) held a legislative retreat on January 8-9, 2010, in Jefferson City. The "icebreaker" was a discussion of Half the Sky by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. This is a book one of the members of our LWV STL IR committee brought to our attention last fall; as the guide from CARE says, it "is a call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women in the developing world."

Saturday morning's speaker was Cynthia Pearson, Executive Director of National Women's Health Network in Washington, D.C. A wonderful speaker, she talked about legislative specifics regarding women's health and compared the House and Senate versions of the current health care bill before the US Congress.

Women from around the state discussed various bills and laws – the good, the bad, and the ugly – that came before the MO legislature in 2009 and then reviewed bills recently filed. We prioritized legislation we believe is critical in 2010. As always passage of the Equal Rights Amendment is our number one or two priority. I used to be off-board for LWVMO watching ERA legislation; however, at the moment there is nothing to watch. It is still filed every year, but until the make-up of the MO legislature changes there will in all probability be no passage. This year MWN voted to list reproductive rights as the group's #1 priority and ERA #2. Other concerns for MWN will be civil liberties, poverty, health care, education....

The MWN is an umbrella group which challenges all to examine women's issues and to consider how we can influence our lawmakers, especially those in Jefferson City. The retreat is open to all, and I encourage you to join us next January and to contact your legislators in the meantime.

Judith Smart

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE FAR AND NEAR

In December, the League presented a program on impact of global climate change on developing countries and international aid efforts. The program featured a film “Sisters on the Planet” and a talk by Tom Mitchell, Chairperson of the Missouri United Methodist Church Conference Mozambique Initiative. The program was very interesting and clearly illustrated the serious challenges posed by climate change. Thanks Mr. Mitchell, Linda McDaniel and Mickey Croyle who contributed so much to the success of the meeting. The meeting was funded by a grant to the LWVMO from the LWVUS Education Fund and Oxfam America.

Obviously countries faced floods, droughts, typhoons and other natural disasters before climate change became an issue but the evidence is clear that these events are becoming more numerous, more severe and of longer duration. The human toll is staggering with loss of life and the displacement of large numbers of people.

We may think of the serious impacts of climate change as mainly affecting underdeveloped countries without the resources and technology to adapt to severe weather. However, we are also vulnerable to the effects of change. LWVUS has issued a study “Climate Change Impacts on the Midwest” which is available on their website. The paper cites five effects which are occurring now and are expected to increase in intensity and impact. They are:

- Increasingly frequent and more intense heat waves will adversely affect human health.
- More frequent heavy rainstorms will cause flooding and trigger sewage overflows.
- Increases in heat, insect pests, and weather extremes will pose challenges for agriculture.
- Great Lakes water levels will decline, increasing shipping costs and dredging requirements.
- Changing climate conditions will threaten many native species.



They all have serious problems but the second one seems of particular immediacy in St. Louis. The sewer system is old and combined sewer overflows (CSO's) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) are a frequent problem. We have passed two bond issues to fund projects to address the deficiencies in the system but more will be needed in the future. In addition to sewer overflows, we have had flash flooding on our streams and tributaries resulting in continuing property damage and even loss of life. Although much is being done to address the problem, the increased frequency, severity and duration of rain events are major complications.

The League has made the need to address climate change a major focus. The LWVUS had observers at the climate change conference in Copenhagen. The LWV of Cincinnati has issued a study of climate change which is also on the LWVUS website along with articles on various activities undertaken to address the need for strong Federal legislation. These reports can be accessed at the LWVUS website in the library and climate change sections. The web address for the article cited above is http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/StudyTaskforces/GlobalClimateChange/CCTF_ImpactsMidwest.pdf. If you do not have access to the internet and would want to read this study or the Cincinnati study, call the office and a printed copy will be provided.

Nancy Bowser

ELIMINATING THE DEATH PENALTY STEP BY STEP

The American Law Institute is a prestige organization made up of about 4,000 judges, lawyers and law professors. In 1962, as part of its Model Penal Code, it developed a framework for the death penalty in an effort to make it less arbitrary. Its standards were emulated by the various states.

The Institute recently conducted a study of the death penalty and concluded that it had too many problems such as racial disparities, underpaid and incompetent defense lawyer, and plain unfairness. The result was for the Institute to eliminate their support for the death penalty.

This was a compromise between those who supported the death penalty and those who wanted the Institute to come out against the death penalty. The compromise was to eliminate the subject from its Model Penal Code. Just one more step toward abolition.

Sydell Shayer, Chair

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@lwwstl.org

Anna Mennerick

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Adding as a household member:

Mike Jones
6 Grantwood Ln.
St. Louis MO 63123-2052
314.842.9383

New members:

LaDonna Appelbaum 12739 Cypressway St. Louis MO 63146-4413 314.520.3094	Pat May 6738 Sutherland Ave. St. Louis MO 63109-1258 314.647.0518
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COMMITTEES AT WORK



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will be meeting on Saturday, February 13th at 9:30 a.m. at the League office.

Marty Rulo, Chair

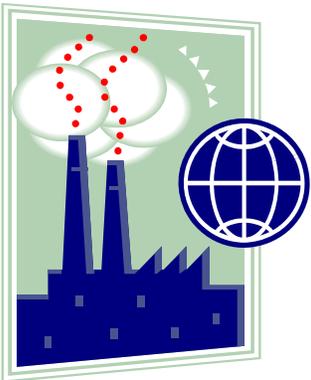


HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Health Care Committee will meet at Cape Albeon on Thursday February 4th at 10 a.m. We will discuss the comparison of the two bills passed by the congress and the senate and their progress toward reconciliation. If there are any questions relating to directions, health care issues you wish to present for the agenda or suggestions for action by the committee, please call Katharine at 636.861.7148

Katharine Kilpatric, Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE



The Environmental Quality Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 9th at 5:30 pm at the League office.

Nancy Bowser, Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will meet on Friday, February 12th, at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters at 10 am.

Judith Smart, Chair





LWVMO EARLY VOTING CONSENSUS STUDY 2009-2010 INFORMATION PACKET

The Early Voting Consensus Study will be presented at the February Unit meetings. The following materials are provided so members may prepare for this consensus. If you are receiving this electronically, please print and bring a copy with you to the Unit meeting. If you are receiving it my mail, **please SAVE AND BRING to the meeting.** Additional copies will be made available at each Unit meeting.

Early Voting LWVSTL Committee: Marty Ott, chair; Anne Bader, Mickey Croyle, Janice Dahl, Susan Fluegel, Eve Golden, and Kathleen Kelley

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

BACKGROUND FOR STUDY

NO EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING – CONS AND PROS

EARLY VOTING – CONS AND PROS

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

RESOURCES AND LINKS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION SLIDES:

NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Should the League of Women Voters of Missouri support absentee voting elections laws that—

1. No longer requires a reason to vote absentee? (Application required)
2. Allow early-in-person absentee voting?
3. Allow early by-mail absentee voting? (Application required)
4. Eliminate the notary requirement for absentee voters?
5. Should Missouri make available the option of being placed on an annual or permanent absentee voting list at the voter's request?
6. Continue the current practice of placing voters with a permanent disability on a permanent absentee voter list?
7. Develop instructions that are clear and concise to reduce the number of spoiled and uncountable ballots?
8. Should the League support no excuse absentee voting even if it costs more to administer?

EARLY VOTING CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

9. Should the League of Women Voters of Missouri support early voting?
10. Should the League support early voting for voter convenience, even if it does not increase voter turnout?
11. In which election(s) should early voting be permitted?

All elections- Presidential, State, County, Municipal, Special
 Presidential Elections only
 Statewide Elections only
 All Federal Elections – other elections at the discretion of the local election authority

12. Should the League support a reasonable amount of time to allow early voting?
13. Should the League support early voting even if it increases voting costs?
14. Please check the voting practices you support.

Same day voter registration
 Automatically register all 18 years olds to vote (make it an opt out program)
 Allow voter registration via the Internet (similar to car license renewals)
 Reduce the number of in-person elections by holding special elections via the mail (for instance, issue only, no candidates)
 Mover special elections to primary and general election days
 Make Federal Election Day a State holiday
 Move Election Day to the weekend - Saturday would become the Election Day.
 Allow centralized voting via Vote Centers (combined precincts, or super precincts, where any registered voter can cast a ballot, as in Columbia, MO)
 Other suggestions – please list.

Thank you for participating in the study.

RESOURCES and LI NKS

“America Goes to the polls—A report on voter turnout in 2008 Election” Prepared by Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network George Pillsbury Senior Policy and Dev. Director
<http://www.nonprofitvote.org/voteturnout2008> page 11 and 15 are on early voting—other good information is provided.

Surrounding States Early Voting & Absentee Voting Status—summary article by Donna Hoch co-chair located on <http://groups.google.com/group/lwvmo-early-voting-study?hl=en>

Alternative Voting Methods September 2008 http://www.eac.gov/News/docs/080911-schatz-final-draft-alternative-voting-methods-study/attachment_download/file

“Early Voting in Person/Vote by Mail” is a brief article that explains what Early Voting is, where it is used, and benefits and challenges of early voting and issues to be addressed. You can view this article at <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/Early-Voting-In-Person/Vote-by-Mail.html>

Voters First: An Examination of the 2008 State and Federal Elections in Missouri, Sec. of State Robin Carnahan’s office created this document which you can view in its entirety at http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/VotersFirst/2008/A_NarrativeTOC.pdf#2

Links:

The Early Voting Information Center at Reed College <http://www.earlyvoting.net> the Early Voting Information Center provides news and research on and a state-by-state overview of early voting issues.

The AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project www.electionreformproject.org aims to synthesize election reform research and bridge together the research and policy communities.

Election Center of the National Association of Election Officials this web site contains Election Data, Links, Legislation, Reports, Helpful Sources, & Interesting Stories <http://www.electioncenter.org/electionresources.html>

electionline.org, produced by the Pew Center on the States' Election Initiatives, is the nation’s only nonpartisan, non-advocacy Web site providing up-to-the-minute news and analysis on election reform.

<http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/electionline>

The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan public policy and law institute that focuses on fundamental issues of democracy and justice.

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/section/category/voting_rights_elections/,



FEBRUARY Unit Meetings

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

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

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

HOME OF ELISE JOERGER

7136 Kingsbury
314.725.4829
Leader: Carol Portman
314.726.3269

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, February 10
9:30 a.m. meeting

Hosts: Lolly Wehrli, Katharine Kilpatric, Evelyn Buretta

From Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry, go West on Dougherty Ferry, cross Big Bend and turn left on Lake Bend Drive.

CAPE ALBEON

3380 Lake Bend Drive, Valley Park
636.861.0287
Leader: Mary Long
314.849.7045

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, February 11
7:00 p.m.

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
314.961.6869
Leader: Esther Clark 314.416.0366

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, February 11
9:30 a.m. meeting
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314.434.5116
Leader: Mary Brown
636.532.0833

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

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, February 13
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 or more information contact Betty Ann or Kathleen**

2010 Discussion Topics for Units

February - Early Voting Consensus
March - International Relations

In honor of Anna Mennerick & Julie Behrens from Kathleen Farrell to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Mary Long from Janet Fales to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Sydell Shayer from Agnes Garino to LWV Information Service in recognition as “An Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan”.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

We are off and running with the new year! As of January 15th Leaguers who helped in the office since our last report were Brenda Banjak, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Sue Dellbringge, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, and Enid Tennebaum. Thanks!

Julie Behrens, Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

The first unit meeting I attended was part of a national consensus process. As I mark the end of my first year with the League, we are considering Early Voting to determine whether or not we have a statewide consensus. Consensus can be a rigorous structure for organizational governance, similar to *Robert's Rules of Order*. An ordinary form of consensus is used when a group decides what restaurant or movie each member could enjoy together. League consensus is somewhere in the middle of the spectrum between formal and casual.

The basic tenants still apply. Each voice is essential. Uninhibited discussion is the pot in which the stew of consensus simmers. In a democratic framework, groups sometimes try to identify and then throw support behind the dominant opinion. The best conditions under which to find the overlapping areas of agreement needed for consensus include a broad range of opinions. The minority opinion may influence consensus more than the dominant one.

As you participate in the Early Voting Consensus process this month, please share your thoughts, questions and opinions. The challenge of determining the sense of the local League is on the shoulders of the committee and the board. The challenge for each of us as individual members is to create the ideal environment for consensus --- engaged, informed conversation

Anna Mennerick



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.

Presented by:



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

\$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 and LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTER'S INFORMATION SERVICE****

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

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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.

** a donation to the Information Services is tax deductible.

Annual Theater Party 2010 in Partnership with HotCity Theatre

Hosted by the League of Women Voters Information Service

Reception from 1:30pm - 2:30pm and the Show at 3:00 p.m., February 13, 2009 at the Kranzberg Arts Center, 501 N. Grand Ave., St. Louis, MO

Name (s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

I will be a sponsor at the \$ _____ level.

I am unable to sponsor, but would like to make a contribution of \$ _____

Number of tickets needed _____ Seating is limited. Please indicate only the seats you will use.

- _____ **\$3000-Diamond** *10 tickets*
- _____ **\$1500-Platinum** *8 tickets*
- _____ **\$500 - Gold** *6 tickets*
- _____ **\$300 - Silver** *4 tickets*
- _____ **\$150 - Bronze** *2 tickets*
- _____ **\$55** *1 ticket*

I would like my sponsor contribution to remain anonymous.

Make checks payable to the LWV Information Service.

Sponsorships are tax deductible to the extent allowable by the law. Receipts will be provided with your tickets.

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IN LEAGUE REPORTER

