



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
February, 2008

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

I have another favorite saying: **“If you have but one gift to give let it be enthusiasm!”** I think of enthusiasm as the leavening in life.

Last year when Janice Dahl did her in-depth interviews with League members to get a sense of members’ attitudes about our League she reported “There is an astounding level of focus, understanding and agreement of Vision, Mission, and Purpose of the organization.” Now, that’s enthusiasm! However---- she went on to say “It does not begin to dissolve until you get into the actual implementation of the organization’s programs.” Ouch.

Do not despair. This latter condition is curable and we have the formula. Our reason for being is voter education and during this election year we get a chance to implement, big time. We need a committee of 20 enthusiastic people to help put out our Voters’ Guide. It is a short term commitment (pardon the expression), and Mickey Croyle has provided us with the mother of all flow sheets which breaks the job into bits and pieces.

We are planning to have a Voters’ Guide volunteer coffee February 23rd at 9:30 am in the office to map out our strategy. You will want to be there. Give Micki a call and tell her, excitedly, that you will.

Doris Buzzell

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By the time you receive this newsletter in the mail, the new website will available. Go to www.lwvstl.org (same web address) for a new look, new links and new information (more on page 7).

CALENDAR		
Units--See Page 3		
Sat., January 19, 2008	9:00 AM	Education Committee meeting, League office
Mon., January 21, 2008		Office Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Weds., January 23, 2008	7:00 PM	MO Non-Partisan Court Plan Meeting (pg. 2 for details)
Tues., February 5, 2008		Presidential Primary—don’t forget to VOTE
Sat., February 16, 2008	9:00 AM	Education Committee Meeting, League Office
Wed., February 20, 2008	1:00 PM	Environmental Quality Committee Meeting, League Office
Sat., February 23, 2008	9:30 AM	Voter Guides’ Meeting (see Pres. letter for more info)

ALL MEMBER MEETING THE MISSOURI NONPARTISAN COURT PLAN WILL MISSOURI LOSE IT?



With the “Missouri Plan” for choosing judges being addressed in the Post Dispatch editorial on 1/9/2008 and possibly coming up for debate in the Missouri legislature, it is imperative that the citizens of St. Louis and the LWV understand the implications and the intricacies of the plan and the arguments at play. The Missouri Plan has been used as a model in more than 30 states around the country, but is now being threatened as the Missouri legislature considers going to an elected judicial system.

Speakers: Judge Thea Sherry & Judge Mary Pat Schroeder
Associate circuit judges, St. Louis County

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Location: World Trade Center, 121 South Meramec,
Clayton 1st floor training room
Time: 7:00 pm

Sponsor: League of Women Voters of St. Louis
Come and bring a friend
Cost: free

Information, directions or carpool information: LWV office at 314-961-6869

League Members---Bring Your Friends

The International Relations committee will not have regular meetings in January or February. In January, we will have a special meeting on the 16th to tally to immigration consensus. In February, we are having an outing to the History Museum for those IR members who have already signed up. We will meet again in March: the second Friday - March 14, regular time - 10 a.m., and regular place - County Library HQ. At that time we hope many League members will attend and help us decide what to choose for our next IR topic of study.

Judith Smart, IR chair

The LWV Speakers Bureau is greeting this election year with requests arriving.

First to start off is **Jill Schmidt** who on January 25th will be telling a group of home-schoolers in Eureka about the importance of voting. Thanks, Jill.

Marj Courtney, Speakers Bureau Chair

February Unit Meetings –Program Planning

How many of the League’s positions can you name right now? For example, where do we stand on the issue of entitlements, or trade barriers, or the electoral college, or waste management? Hint: they are included in the general headings of Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. How can we work for policies if we do not know what they are?

Each year, we remind ourselves where we stand. That is what we will be doing in the February unit meetings. This year we will look at our national positions and decide what to keep, what to change and what to chuck. It goes by the prosaic title of Program Planning---or we could call it putting in our 2 cents worth. Let’s tell National what we think!

There also will be a brief presentation from EQ on the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON,
WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD DAY UNIT AND CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR.
MEETINGS TAKE PLACE IN MEMBER’S HOMES.**

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, February 12

9:15 a.m. coffee

9:30 a.m. meeting

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, February 13

9:30 a.m. meeting

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday February 14

9:30 a.m. meeting

Noon salad lunch

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, February 14

7:00 p.m.

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104

314-961-6869

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, February 9

10:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington



Environmental Quality Committee

In February, the Environmental Quality Committee members will be visiting unit meetings to further explain our support for the U. S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. This is a program that urges a modification of our behaviors to reflect our concern for the health of this earth and the health of the environment for future generations. It is important to deal with such problems locally in addition to nationally. Other groups including the Sierra Club, Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice, and other LWV groups are involved in this endeavor. At the February unit meetings, we will describe this project and we will provide an opportunity for all attending to take part in this effort - using only a few minutes of your time!

The EQ Committee will meet again on the third Wed., Feb. 20, at 1:00 p.m. at the League office.

We also call your attention to a meeting planned for Mar. 8 with the Chief Environmental Officer for Kansas City and a city staff member from Columbia, MO, who deals with carbon dioxide emissions and other environmental issues for that community. Location and other details are not available at this time. The March newsletter will have more information about this program, which will be supported by a number of local groups. So - mark your calendar to attend. This program will help us as we support the U. S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement effort.

Betty Maag, Chair

Freedom of Choice Council
(of which the League is a member)
Invites you to attend
Roe v. Wade 35th Anniversary Celebration

January 22, 2008, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
at the Third Degree Glass Factory, 5200 Delmar
(south side of Delmar between Kingshighway and Union)

Program: Original poem for the occasion , pro-choice pep, fire juggler, and more
Appetizers, desserts, and coffee will be served. Cash bar.

Tickets: \$30 in advance, at door \$35. Student/limited income - \$10 Check or cash only.

Mail to: Freedom of Choice Council, c/o NARAL Pro-Choice MO,
P.O. Box 56574 St. Louis, MO 63156.

Make checks payable to FCC. *All tickets will be held at door.*

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registrars filling out voting registrations got a workout in December...233! In addition to our usual stint at the naturalization ceremonies, where Mary Beth Reynolds, K Wentzien, Jim & Esther Clark, Cindy Mitchell and Carol Portman registered 39 new citizens in 15 minutes. We were at other places, too. Joan Botwinick, Marj Courtney, Esther Clark, Carol Teig and Pam Devoe registered 118 at Washington University. Getting writer's cramps at Nerinx Hall, 65 new registrations in one hour, were Carol Teig, Mary Beth Reynolds and Carol Portman. As if that wasn't enough, Joan Botwinick and Lori Calcaterra were at Forest Park Southeast Health Center. We get around!

At McCluer North High School on Wednesday, January 9th, the League processed 225 registrations. Most of the work was done by 1:00 p.m. (due to the high school's scheduling) by Joe Kleeman, Marj Courtney, Micki Hoffman, Arlene Nickels, Jim Clark, and Carol Portman. The afternoon crew included Joan Botwinick, Jean Srenco, Cindy Mitchell, Doris Buzzell and Mary Beth Reynolds.

Many thanks for the great job all the registrars are doing getting new people registered and others updated.

The following article is an excerpt from an article by: Lulia J. Hamdan (student at McCluer North H.S.)

Standing Up for Change



The year 2008 is a beginning to fresh new things. New cars. New technology. New schools and classes. *And* a new U.S. president? Yes, that's right!...Voting registration for this new year was held on January 8th in the main gym. At the end of the day, there was an amazing total of about 250 registration cards.

Senior, Rodney Brown, was the student who initiated the whole "register to vote!" campaign in McCluer North. Rodney wanted this generation of youth to become more involved with the presidential elections. With the help of Mr. Hall, Rodney was able to put together the voting registration event.

Richard Bauer, the St. Louis County Board of Elections assistant director, said, "a heavy amount of people are trying to hit the deadline," for voting registration. And it's true! Many students showed up to register to vote.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) were responsible for the registration process. Carol Portman said that she and others were prepared to register nearly 200 to 300 students from 10 am to 3 pm. After the first hour or so, she said about 100 students had already registered.



The entire registration process was short and simple, or as one student mentioned, "quick, easy, and painless." The process didn't take more than 2-3 minutes. Senior, Trencece McCray, registered to vote. "I wanted to make a difference," she said. She was tired of complaining about things happening in and by this country. Instead of complaining, she wants to help make a difference and voting for your future president is the best way to do so.



Bryan Davenport said, "I registered to vote because I see how things are in our country and I want to make a difference to improve our future." James Rece thinks his vote "will make a one vote difference." Many students *do* believe that their vote will help make a difference in their future. "If everyone thinks that their "one little vote" doesn't matter, then what does that show?" What's the point in voting if you think your opinion doesn't count?

Judicial Independence & The Lessons of the Intelligent Design Case

Attendees got a taste of humor, constitution and intelligent design with *Judicial Independence & The Lessons of the Intelligent Design Case*, featuring U.S. Court Judge John E. Jones. The League of Women Voters of St. Louis hosted the community event, held Dec. 7th. Judge Jones, one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in 2006, decided the landmark case of *Kitzmiller v. Dover School Board* in 2005.

Jones spoke to the crowd of 130 about the need to maintain independence in the Judicial Branch, citing the Constitution. He talked about the steps he used in reaching a decision in the landmark “intelligent design” case, which has received national coverage.

Jones also talked about the Nonpartisan Court Plan, currently under fire in Missouri , which fostered the model which is now in use in 30 states in the nation. Judge Jones, appointed to the bench in 2002 by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the Senate, is a noted advocate for judicial independence and believes that judges should help to educate the public about the importance of civic education and the judicial branch of government. The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis partnered with the LWVSTL for promotion of the event.

(Pictured left to right: St. Louis 1st Vice Pres. Janice Dahl, Pres. Doris Buzzell, and U.S. Court Judge John E. Jones.)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS POLITICAL FORUMS (as of 1-11-08) SPRING 2008

Date	Time	Meeting	Location	Sponsor
Tuesday March 4	7-8:00 pm	Rockwood School Board Candidate Forum	Crestview Middle School	Rockwood School District
Monday March 17	7-8:30 pm	Ladue School Board Candidate Forum	Ladue Horton-Watkins High School	Ladue School District
Monday March 10	7-8:00 pm	Kirkwood School Board Candidate Forum	Kirkwood Admin Center, 11289 Manchester Rd.	Kirkwood School District
Tuesday March 25	7-8:30 pm	Parkway School Board Candidate Forum	Parkway South Middle School	Parkway School District



Please call the League office for information on joining the League of Women Voters of St. Louis

Member updates:

Joe Cole was honored on December 9, 2007 at Kirkwood's Walker Banquet Center at Sunset 44. He was honored for his lifelong commitment to Kirkwood and Club 44. Joe founded Club 44 in 1955.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Jane Graham** on December 28, 2007. Jane was a League member since 2001. She will be missed.

We were saddened to learn of the passing away of **Norella Huggins**. Norella was a League member since 1971. She was a longtime Kirkwood civic volunteer and community leader. She will be missed.

EVENTS HONORING HARRIETT WOODS

On Saturday, February 9, at 1:00 p.m. The University City U. S. Post Office will become the "Harriett Woods Post Office." At the same time the plaza directly in front of the University City City Hall will be named the "Harriett Woods Civic Plaza." The dedication event will be held in the 560 Trinity building (Washington University Music School). Instrumental in creating these honors are U. S. Representative Russ Carnahan and University City Councilperson (and LWV member) Stefany Brot. No government funds are being expended on the memorial in the civic plaza. A tax deductible gift to support the memorial can be made to the University City Parks Foundation, a 501c3 organization. Mark your contribution "Woods Memorial" and send to Judy Prange, University City Parks Foundation, 7401 Delmar, University City, MO 63130.



LWVSTL League Members, Committee Chairs and Unit Chairs: **please check around your home for past League study materials, articles, or historical items that we can archive to the new revised LWV STL web page.** All LWV study material should be available on the web page. You can help by providing the materials that you have.

By the time you receive this newsletter in the mail, the new website will available.

Go to www.lwvstl.org (same web address) for a new look, new links and new information. If you have comments, suggestions or changes call or send them to the League office. 2008 will be a very busy Election Year. LWVSTL wants to expand to regional coverage and engage the citizens of the St. Louis Area and provide State of the Art Citizenship for the region.