



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF METRO
ST. LOUIS**

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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JUNE/JULY 2018

MISSOURI LEAGUE RECEIVES REDISTRICTING ADVOCACY GRANT

LWVMO just learned it is receiving a \$8,000 grant from the LWVUS Ed Fund. Fourteen states were invited to compete for the redistricting advocacy grant and 12 received at least partial funding. LWVMO will use the funding to educate voters about the need to have a better system of redistricting to ensure fairness after each U.S. Census.

Sydell Shayer, Linda McDaniel and other Missouri League members have studied the apportionment of Missouri election districts since the early 1960s. As stated in the grant application, “We have a unique opportunity in Missouri to stop political and racial gerrymandering and achieve more representative democracy.” The state League plans a statewide campaign to advocate for Section 3 of the CLEAN Missouri Initiative which is expected to be on the November ballot. It says a paid professional demographer should establish districts on the basis of total population and “take into account the rights of racial and language minorities and design districts to achieve both partisan fairness and competitiveness.”

The last week of the legislative session, Nancy Miller testified in Jefferson City against HJR100, a bill that would have undermined CLEAN MO’s redistricting changes. She stressed the LWV position that political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials.

2ND DISTRICT CANDIDATE FORUM KICKS OFF PRIMARY SEASON

The five candidates running for the Democratic nomination in Missouri's 2nd Congressional District addressed a wide range of topics on June 2. The well-attended forum was held at the Ethical Society and moderated by Nancy J. Miller, LWVMSTL Co-President. Mark Osmack, Cort VanOstran, Bill Haas, John Messmer and Robert Hazel are running in the Aug. 7 primary to challenge Republican incumbent Ann Wagner.



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ATTENTION, LEAGUE BUSINESS OWNERS!

The League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis is a supporter of Raise Up Missouri’s initiative to gradually raise Missouri’s minimum wage to \$12 per hour by the year 2023. We are advocating for this initiative to help all Missourians achieve self-sufficiency. Gradually raising the minimum wage is good for business, customers, and the local economy.

League members who are business owners and support this initiative are especially important for this effort. Business owners can sign on to endorse a decent wage at <https://www.businessforafairminimumwage.org/>.

Help us tell the whole state that a fair minimum wage makes economic sense, even to businesses.



PRESENTERS
-
MESSAGE

Spring quickly melded into summer as LWVMO's Spring Conference, grant deadlines, voter registration, advocacy strategy meetings, new member orientation, and new member and board orientations took place. In some years, May gives us a chance for a deep breath and a look back at the local election season. This year, we jumped straight into a busy primary election season and planning for the national convention.

The Missouri Spring Conference on May 5th provided high-quality presentations on issues of concern to Leaguers: climate change and security; sunshine laws; common-sense gun laws; and keeping up with fast-moving legislation with Fastdemocracy.com.



We welcomed 10 new members and 10 guests at the May 21st new member orientation. Good food and



conversation shared the League climate and enthusiasm for our mission of voter service, education and advocacy.

Meetings with coalition partners AAUW, CLEAN Missouri and Raise Up Missouri will continue as we share resources and connections. Working together, we can achieve success for petition issues on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Nine members of the LWV of Metro St. Louis (Louise Wilkerson, Nancy Miller, Jean Dugan, Angie Dunlap, Jennifer Rushing, Sydell Shayer, Catherine Stenger, Bella White and Debby Howard) are traveling to Chicago for the LWVUS National Convention. From June 28 through July 1, we will be listening, questioning, sharing, debating, voting, thinking and probably sleeping LWV. Several issues will be presented, including carbon limits, Medicare for all, Electoral College abolition, redistricting, maintaining League transparency, civic education and a roadmap for the future.

As we take a break from unit and committee meetings this summer, please consider stepping into a leadership role this fall. The Education, Health Care and Transportation Committees need chairpersons. We are also in need of an editor for this newsletter as Kathy Brown steps down.

— Nancy J. Miller and Louise T. Wilkerson

2018-2019 LWVMSTL OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: Nancy Miller, Louise Wilkerson
First Vice President: Catherine Stenger
Second Vice President: Barbara Harris
Secretary: Nancy Price
Treasurer: Steve Smith

Directors:
Angie Dunlap, Eve Golden, Joan Hubbard, Jennifer Rushing,
Anne Sappington, Cathy Satkowski, Sydell Shayer,
Carol Strawbridge

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Nancy Price, Education Committee Acting Chair

In HCS/HB 2002, the K-12 education budget bill, legislators agreed to the higher House funding level of a \$98M increase to reach full K-12 formula funding. Conferees also agreed to a compromise increase of pupil transportation funding by \$10M over the House position of \$92M.

The final version will now be sent to the governor for his approval or veto. The Constitution prohibits the governor from reducing any appropriation for free public schools, however the governor may withhold funds if there is a shortfall in revenue.

The Foundation Formula's full funding level was reduced two years ago. If the governor approves the K-12 funding, it will be the second consecutive year that the formula is fully funded at the reduced level. The League believes that K-12 education should be fully funded at the previous (higher) level.

Bills for Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts and the expansion of charter schools statewide have been of concern this session. Neither bill passed the legislature.

The Education Committee recommends LWVMSTL maintain awareness of future Missouri Legislature bills similar to HB1424, which was aimed at moving school board elections from April to November.

ELECTION DATES FOR 2018

July 11: Last Day to Register to Vote in Aug. 7 primary

July 16: Vote411.org goes live

July 27: Voters Guide published

Aug. 1: Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot

Aug. 7: Primary (Polls open at 6 am and close at 7 pm.)

Sept. 25: Absentee in-person voting begins for Nov. 6 election

Oct. 10: Last Day to Register for Nov. 6 election

Oct. 31: Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot

Nov. 6: Election Day (Polls open at 6 am and close at 7 pm.)

98th Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote

*Save
the
Date!*

*Saturday,
August 25th
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
(registration begins at 9:30 am)*

*Missouri Women's Network
presents the
31st Annual
Equality Day Brunch*

*Featured Speaker
Presentations
Equality Day Awards*



*Clayton Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet, Clayton, MO 63105
Free hotel parking on Orange Level
For more information contact: Pat Shores apatriciashores@att.net*

Partners Strengthen League's Advocacy Work

Last summer, both the St. Louis Metro Board and the Missouri State Board voted to support the CLEAN Missouri ballot initiative. On May 3, 2018, the coalition submitted 346,956 signatures to the Secretary of State's office in Jefferson City, more than enough to qualify the initiative petition for the Nov. 6 ballot. The constitutional amendment will increase integrity, transparency and accountability in state government. The measure's limits and controls on campaign and lobbyist contributions and new rules on open records and redistricting all reflect League beliefs and positions on good government.



We applied for the redistricting advocacy grant from the LWVUS Ed Fund knowing that our advocacy for CLEAN Missouri would be a perfect fit. Our partners at CLEAN, Sean Soendker Nicholson and Benjamin Singer, will be helpful as the League starts planning its advocacy events. They also persuaded Nancy Miller to testify before the Missouri Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee on May 16. A quickly advancing bill, HJR100, would have limited the scope of residents to be counted for the 2020 redistricting to citizens instead of all residents and overrode the redistricting tenet of CLEAN Missouri if it should happen to pass in November. The bill was having its last hearing before advancing to the floor of the Senate on May 17, the closing day of the session. The Committee, composed of five Republicans and two Democrats, voted to approve the bill, but our appearance drew a mention in the media coverage. Fortunately, HJR100 did not make it to the floor before the session ended.

We look forward to the statewide support the CLEAN Missouri initiative has already and will continue to garner. LWV Springfield has its first CLEAN event scheduled already. We will be advocating through a variety of our services: Speakers Bureau, Unit Meetings, Issues Forums, press releases, phone banks and PSAs.

At the LWV Metro Town Hall and Rally Night events held during the summer of 2017, members were asked to brainstorm issues they would like to see the Board be active with and then join discussion groups about these issues. The result was the formation of two study groups: one group focused on Policing in the St. Louis region and the other group began investigating the living wage. In the League, a local or state League cannot advocate for an issue unless the LWVUS has a position on it. So the Policing group began a study aimed toward developing a new position for the LWVUS. This will be a multi-year process.



The Living Wage group, under a special ruling posted on February 2, 2015 by the LWV, began a study of statewide and local data concerning the Living Wage. While researching, they received a great deal of information from the Raise Up Missouri referendum team. As their study continued, the named focus became a Minimum Wage. The committee compiled information and crafted a position for the state to approve, based on the LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs Position. The committee also developed a PowerPoint presentation which was presented to the St. Louis Metro Board on April 4. After adjusting the position statement to account for a higher minimum wage in the future, the Board approved the position statement and sent it to the State Board for approval, which they did on May 4. The position states: **A minimum wage of at least \$12/hour in Missouri is necessary to advance self-sufficiency for individuals and families.** We also will be providing support for Raise Up Missouri through Speakers Bureau, Unit Meetings, Issues Forums, press releases, phone banks and PSAs.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: GOOD NEWS ON GREEN ENERGY

By Mickey Croyle, Environmental Quality Committee Chair

As the federal government added tariffs to solar panels (increasing costs) and decreased incentives to move from fossil fuels to green energy, good news can be found on both Green Energy and Sustainability. Summarized below are three recent articles with good news!

From the *New York Times*, Feb. 6, 2018. "Why a Big Utility Is Embracing Wind and Solar" by Justin Gillis and Hal Harvey (<http://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/06/opinion/utility-embracing-wind-solar.html?smid=nytcore-ipad-share&smprod=nytcore-ipad>) reviews recent costs in electricity. Xcel Energy with "customers from Texas to Michigan" was highlighted. They are proposing to construct big power plants using wind turbines and solar panels to replace coal burning power plants. Costs for renewable energy are decreasing, as federal subsidies are being eliminated. The costs of huge batteries are also decreasing.

From the *Business Insider*, Dec. 4, 2017. "These Solar Panels that Can Pull Clean Drinking Water Out of the Air Just Got a Big Boost" by Leanna Garfield (<http://www.businessinsider.com/zero-mass-solar-panels-water-from-air-launch-us-2017-12>) reviews Zero Mass Water that makes solar panel arrange that pull clean drinking water from the air. The \$4,500 arrays were just launched in the US. Each panel generates an average of two to five liters of water daily depending on humidity and sunlight. The panels use sunlight to produce heat and then collect water vapor from the air. A school in Mexico City with 50 students has 10 panels. Maintaining the device is low costs. Air filters need to be replaced every year, and the mineral blocks to increase water's pH and improve taste need to be replaced every five years for just a few dollars.

From the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* on Feb. 23, 2018. "Reused Plastic Takes a Ride" by Bryce Gray. This article discusses the use of recycled plastic to generate NICE Rail products to develop railroad ties out of recycled plastic and fiberglass that is not typically recycled. The ties are 250-pound composite logs that compare very favorable to wood and last much longer. QRC-Poly operates the facility in St. Louis that recycles scrap plastic for use, along with wide-ranging commercial applications.

We will not be meeting during the summer but keeping in touch for action items. Please forward to EQ any questions, comments or environmental topics for next year. Environmental Quality is everyone's concern.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

Buy locally-sourced, plant-based unprocessed foods from local farmers, farmers markets and green restaurants. Minimize food waste by planning meals ahead of time and freezing as much as possible. Consider even a small home garden. You can use a large planter, then a tomato plant for summer with a second crop of spinach in the fall.



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dianne Modrell and Jinny Danzer, Health Care Committee



MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE ACTION REGARDING HEALTH CARE

Work has begun to prevent patients from needing to pay “Surprise” bills when receiving care from an in-network (insurance covered) hospital emergency room but receive bills from providers at the facility who may not be part of the same insurance network. Patients would no longer be responsible for payment. It must still be determined who will pay.

Another legislative plus, Medicaid will cover mental health and substance abuse up to one year for women after giving birth.

Approximately 60,000 seniors were cut from Missouri Rx, the prescription-assistance program for lower income citizens. This was done by a requirement for a person to be eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare for assistance. For 2019, a bill that would have eliminated the “dual eligibility” requirement was never given a committee hearing. Additionally, funding to restore cuts to the Missouri Rx program was not included in the 2019 budget.

The 2019 budget removed funds not only from facilities that provide abortions but from “any affiliate or associate thereof.” This includes no reimbursement for any place that provides information or refers to an abortion facility. Other restrictions failed to pass this session.

FOCUS ON RX ISSUES – MISSOURI AND NATIONALLY

Consumer Council of Missouri informs us about paybacks on prescriptions paid to drug benefit managers that may range from \$2 to \$30 per prescription. It is known as a “**clawback.**” Current “**gag clauses**” prohibit pharmacists from telling customers that they could save money by paying cash rather than using their health insurance. Generic medicines can be less expensive than insurance co-pays. Many states are moving to block the gag clause and Missouri should be among those states.



TRANSPARENCY ON DRUG PRICES REVEALED

On May 15, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a new version of the Drug Spending Dashboards. This “dashboard” version (an interactive online tool) includes year-over-year information on drug pricing and highlight which manufacturers have been increasing their prices. Some of the most commonly used drugs across Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid saw double-digit annual increases over the last few years. In 2012, Medicare spent 17% of its total budget, or \$109 billion, on prescription drugs. Four years later in 2016, spending had increased to 23%, or \$174 billion. There is also a list of drugs that accounted for \$39 billion in total spending by Medicare and Medicaid in 2016.

PLAN TO KEEP INFORMED YOUR OWN WAY

There are a number of good sources for health care information. Here are just a few:

- ♦ Missouri Foundation for Health (mffh.org) provides statewide information of all sorts throughout the year and legislative updates during the session.
- ♦ MissouriCures.org will keep you informed on a monthly basis about research being done. They may share related items of interest. For example, June 23 will be a walk in Forest Park for the ALS (Lou Gherig’s disease) Association. More details are available at <http://web.ALSA.org/StLouis>.

THEATRE PARTY SUNDAY OCT. 21

Mark your calendars for the fall Theatre Party on Oct. 21 at 2 pm. We'll see Insight Theatre Company's production of *Silent Sky* at the Kranzberg Art Center on Grand. It is an inspirational drama based on the life of Henrietta Leavitt, an early 20th century female astronomer who revolutionized the field in a male-dominated science.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SEASON

All members of the League of Women Voters should have received your membership renewal letter. LWV of Metro St. Louis is a non-profit that depends largely on memberships to generate revenue to do our work. A \$75 membership is divided between the local (\$23), state (\$20) and national (\$32) Leagues. Your yearly membership allows us to register thousands of voters, publish multiple voters guides, conduct candidate/issue forums, and provide Speakers Bureau presentations all over the region. Your membership maintains a League office which helps citizen voters every day. Your membership makes our voice stronger when we advocate for issues and fight for voter rights. Thank you for your past support. We hope you value the League and decide to renew your membership. If you haven't yet joined us, consider joining us now!

SPEAKERS BUREAU

By Nancy Price, Chair

Two training sessions were held in May. Four new presenters were trained, and several seasoned presenters came to refresh their skills. Several presentations are scheduled for June. Attendees will be all ages, from high school students to senior citizens. If you are interested in becoming a speaker, please contact the office.



Rep. Bruce Franks, Jr., posed with Sheila Hayes at the March 31 Student Summit.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Rep. Franks was incorrectly identified in the May issue of ILR. Our apologies.

REGISTERING YOUNG VOTERS

We were delighted to receive notification that we were awarded a \$1,000 grant from the LWVUS Ed Fund for Youth Voter Registration within a week of Peggy Robb's submission. The Youth Voter Registration team contacted high schools in St. Louis County and part of Jefferson County, and team members set up youth voter drives at a dozen different high schools over the last six months.

With the help of 66 volunteers, the team held 14 high school voter registration drives in the St. Louis area and registered 611 new voters. Team members shared



information about Vote411.org, how to vote at college, and how to sign up for a text reminder service. We're already planning to continue and expand our work this fall. If you are interested in being part of this team, contact the office.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Several volunteer leadership opportunities with LWVMSTL are available. We need an Editor for the monthly In League Reporter, currently being done on Publisher software. We need committee chairs for Health Care, Transportation, International Relations, Education, and Voter Mobilization. These committees meet once a month during September through April. And we need a new Leader for a University City Unit to meet once a month. This group also needs a new location, preferably within U. City or Clayton.

We hope that you will find one of these positions interesting, important, and needing your skills. As one of our 380+ members, we invite you to join the leadership team for our Advocacy, Education and Voter Services. Contact volunteer coordinator Barbara Harris at volunteer@lwvstl.org, or Nancy and Louise at president@lwvstl.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

NEW MEMBERS:

Lorna Anderson

St. Charles, MO 63301
lawoman354@aol.com

Laura Barrett

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laura@raiseupmo.org

Vicki Bolger

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Alice Dettmer

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Gerry Welch

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gwpw@sbcglobal.net

Rhaisa Williams

St. Louis, MO 63112
rhaisakw@gmail.com



UNITS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOTE: Most units are taking a summer break.

Chesterfield/Creve Coeur: Contact Eve Golden. Friendship Village, 15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield. Contact: Eve Golden, 314.469.9985 or j.golden@sbcglobal.net

North County: Contact: Louise Wilkerson, 314.438.8005 or louisew@scglobal.net

St. Charles: Contact Jennifer Rushing. St Charles Police Substation, 1781 Zumbahl Road. Contact: Jennifer Rushing or jrush1120@live.com

St. Louis City: Will meet for the summer months. Day/time TBA. Contact Kathleen Farrell. Trinity Church, Euclid and Washington. Contact: Kathleen Farrell, 314.773.2876 or kathleenfarrell@earthlink.net

South County: Contact Angie Dunlap. South SLC Police Substation, 323 Sappington Barracks, 63125. Contact: Angie Dunlap, 636.368.6846 or aok2bfast@hotmail.com

University City/Clayton: Home of Carol Portman, 155 N. Hanley (Hanley and Pershing). Contact Carol Portman for directions, 314.726.3269 or carportman@sbcglobal.net

Webster/Kirkwood: Contact K Wentzien. First Congregational Church of Webster Groves UCC, 10 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves. SW corner of Elm and Lockwood. Enter off Elm. Lockwood entrance is roped off. In the Parlor on the 2nd floor. Follow signs. Elevator available and handicapped accessible. Contact: K Wentzien, 314.961.0894, 314.805.6950 (cell) or suitsme.prodigy.net

Committee Meetings for Summer. New members and visitors are always welcome!

Centennial Steering Committee: Tuesday, June 26, 2 pm, League office at 8706 Manchester Rd, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO, 63144. Contact: Nancy J. Miller at 314.961.6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Education Committee: Contact: Nancy Price, 314.330.8634 or nprice07@gmail.com

Environmental Quality Committee: Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314.395.7876 or erwincroyle@charter.net

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Voters Guide for the August Primary will need many volunteers. There are many tasks involved. Anne Sappington will be working at the helm of the Voters Guide. If you have time to help please contact Barbara Harris. Her email address is volunteer@LWVstl.org.

Catherine Stenger and Barbara Harris head up Voter Registration. Nancy Price is in charge of Speakers Bureau. Barbara Harris coordinates Candidate Forums as well as volunteers to handle clerical tasks in the office.

Our volunteers since our last newsletter include: Connie Anthony, Susan Baber, Cynthia Biehle, Stefany Brot, Michael Boyd, Sally Boyd, Kathy Brown, Evelyn Buretta, Carol Candrl, Marilyn Chambers, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Karen Cloyd, Mickey Croyle, Helen Davis, Sue Dellbringge, Angie Dunlap, Barbara Ehnes, Kathleen Farrell, Lorna Frahm, Eve Golden, Barbara Harris, Sheila Hayes, Debby Howard, Joan Hubbard, Lisa Humphreys, Nancy Hutchins, Andrea Jackson, Chris Jones, Pat Jones, Kathy Kane, Diane Kasten, Mary Leopold, Kay Meyer, Mary Ann Meyer, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Dianne Modrell Riff O'Brien, Eileen Pacino, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Carol Prombo, Kathie Quigley, Kathy Quinn, Barbara Rehkop, Sarah Riss, Peggy Robb, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Anne Sappington, Cathy Satkowski, Yvonne Schlote, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, Steve Smith, Catherine Stenger, Carol Strawbridge, Billie Teneau, Pam

Todorovich, Susan Turk, Judi Yokum, Rachel Wells, K Wentzien, Ida West, Louise Wilkerson, Sue Williams, Rafia Zafar and Cliff Zell.

We would like all board members and volunteers to keep track of the time you spend on League activities. If we neglected to list your name, please let us know and we will thank you in the next newsletter. — Julie Behrens, Staff

SOCIAL MEDIA

Help spread the word about the good work the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis does by following, sharing and retweeting League events and information. Keep up with the League on our web site at www.lwvstl.org, with Facebook at [Facebook.com/lwvstl](https://www.facebook.com/lwvstl), and on Twitter at [@LWVSTL](https://twitter.com/LWVSTL).



MEMORIALS

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Norma Jean Downey and Bill Vickroy. Norma Jean was President of the St. Louis LWV in 2003-2004. She worked diligently on League projects and was a friend to all who knew her. Bill Vickroy, husband of lifetime member Peggy Vickroy, was a supporter of the League and will be missed.

A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

You may have heard that LWVUS is undertaking an organization transformation to ensure that the “League enters its second century strong, visible and relevant.” While I love the focus on building a more inclusive culture, proposals to change the League’s structure and increase capacity will be more controversial.

The League is at a crossroads, according to the 41-page “Assessment and Transformation Roadmap.” An executive summary is posted at www.lwvstl.org/about.html. “Although it remains a trusted household name, many stakeholders cannot describe clearly the purpose of the organization and are unclear about its relevance.” However, LaPiano Consulting stressed that “a strong League is needed as much now as it was at its founding” because of gerrymandering, efforts to suppress voting and other attacks to democratic ideals.

The St. Louis League was founded on Nov. 13, 1919. As we approach that centennial and the 100th Anniversary of women’s suffrage, I hope all members recognize the need to continue the fight to further better government and create a more perfect democracy.

— Jean Dugan





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Summer 2018

June	League Dues Time!
June 28-July 1	LWVUS Convention: Creating a More Perfect Democracy, Chicago Hilton
June & July	Work on Voters Guide
Aug 7	St. Louis City & Missouri primaries
Aug 25	MO Women’s Network Women’s Equality Day Banquet
Oct. 21, 2 pm	Theater Party (<i>Silent Sky</i> at Kranzberg Art Center)

MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS



Stop by the office sometime to meet college interns Aaliyah Bailey and Fiona Eckert. They’ll be working on the Voters Guide, updating PowerPoint presentations and handling other projects this summer.

Aaliyah Bailey (left) is a student at the University of Missouri St. Louis and a graduate of the Sue Shear Institute’s LEAD Program that encourages civic engagement and instills in students a passion for women’s public sector leadership.

Fiona Eckert (right) just finished her sophomore year at Washington University, majoring in International Development and Environmental Policy. She’ll be working on communications two days a week.

