



# IN LEAGUE REPORTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST LOUIS

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St Louis, MO 63144

314.961.6869

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[www.lwvstl.org](http://www.lwvstl.org)

**AUGUST 2012**

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### LEAGUE READIES FOR ELECTION SEASON

The last six weeks have been filled with preparations for the August primary elections. With the August 2012 Voter Guides in the hands of voters, VOTE411 providing information to the public, and preparations underway for our participation in voter forums and the 2012 Black Expo, the League continues to play a vital role providing information and assistance to voters. The August 7th primary will determine candidates for the November general election as well as approve or disapprove Missouri Constitutional Amendment 2: Freedom to Pray in Public Places. For information on this proposed amendment, go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

**To accomplish all of these events and provide voter services through the office, your help is needed. Please volunteer a few hours of your time to help out!**

In addition, as we have in the past, the League will be conducting the **St. Louis Housing Authority Elections on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>**. There are 11 sites to be covered, so we need YOUR help. You can work one of the three shifts below:

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00-6:00 p.m.

6:00-8:00 p.m. (ballot count)

Our League has worked with the Housing Authority for a number of years on these elections. It is a good opportunity to become more acquainted with the City's housing, provide a valuable service, AND make some money for the League. In the past, we have been paid \$1,000-\$1,200 for this work. This is not a heavy turnout election, so you will have the opportunity to finish reading that last summer vacation book you didn't get done. Snacks and meals are provided.

Step up and volunteer. Contact Kathleen at: [dkbkmk01@swbell.net](mailto:dkbkmk01@swbell.net) or 314.533.

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

### FEATURE ARTICLES

<i>Election Season</i>	1
<i>Message from the Presidents</i>	2
<i>Candidate/ Forums</i>	3
<i>Ballot Issues Forums</i>	3
<i>Advocacy</i>	4
<i>Environmental Issues</i>	5
<i>Committee News</i>	6
<i>Tailgate Sale</i>	6
<i>Kickoff Dinner</i>	7
<i>Tributes &amp; Memorial</i>	8
<i>Member News</i>	8
<i>Volunteer</i>	8
<i>Executive Director</i>	8

Sun.	Aug 5th	12-6:00 pm	MO Black Expo Event	America's Convention Center
Sat.	Aug 11th	9:30 am	Education Committee	League Office
Wed.	Aug 15th	6:00 pm	Board Meeting	League Office
Sat.	Aug 18th	8am –9pm	<b>STL Housing Authority Elections (see above)</b>	
Wed.	Aug 22nd	7:00 pm	Ballot Issues Forum	SLCL Headquarters on Lindbergh
Sat.	Aug. 25th	10am-2pm	Equality Day Brunch	Crowne Plaza Hotel
Thurs.	Aug 30th	7:00 pm	Ballot Issues Forum	Tesson Ferry SLCL

### PLANNING AHEAD

Mon.	Sept. 3rd	7:30-2pm	Tailgate Sale	University City
Tues.	Sept. 11th	5:30-8pm	Annual Kickoff Dinner	YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center

UNIT MEETINGS BEGIN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2nd

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS AUGUST 2012

Dear Friends,

The August primary is just around the corner and look at this month's calendar. WE ARE BUSY! Our new partnership with the St. Louis NAACP; our upcoming issue forums with FOCUS St. Louis, Washington University's Brown School of Social Work and the St. Louis County Library, candidate forums, our new work in schools with Kids' Voting-Missouri, and the delivery of 20,000 printed Voters Guides are just part of the whirlwind of preparations going on in the office these days.

Candidates and citizens are singing the praises of our on-line Voters Guide. We've been leading a lot of callers to it on our website and we've had rave reviews. One 92 year old gentleman who we helped navigate the system kept saying : "This is so wonderful. My friends will love it." We loved hearing that, but of course we will send a copy of the printed guide to anyone who requests it.

If you haven't tried out the on-line version of VOTE411, go to our website, click on "Elections" and get started reading about candidates and the proposed Missouri Constitution amendment on the August 7<sup>th</sup> primary ballot. Make your decisions, select candidates and "yes" or "no" on ballot issues and either email or print out your own personal choices before you to the polls.

Across the country, the League is fighting against voter suppression, for full campaign finance disclosure, for coverage of essential health services for women, and for important regulations to ensure clean air and water. Here at home, we are doing the same but also stepping up to the plate to provide citizens with the accurate, balanced, non-partisan information they so desperately need about issues and candidates. In this time of around the clock political diatribe and negative ads, we want to be at the forefront of the solution.

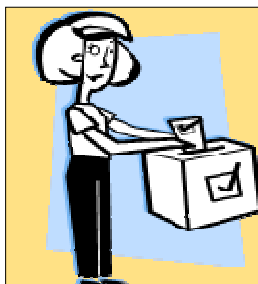
We welcome our new partnership with the St. Louis NAACP as we work to overcome our community's concerns about the right to vote and its importance. With obstacles to voting in Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, and other states, we are PROUD that we were part of the successful opposition to Voter Photo ID in Missouri. But we must be ever vigilant in protecting that right, and work hard to meet the increased requests for voter services in our community.

It's YOUR TURN to be part of the solution. Read this newsletter carefully and identify one or two activities you would like to be involved in. Answer Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator's call for volunteers, or call the office to find out how you can help. Bring a friend or two to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Kickoff and get them to join. We have our running shoes on...

Linda McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell

### VOTER REGISTRATION



Thank-you for the overwhelming response to the call for Voter Registration assistance! A training can be set up for August or September. If interested, please call the League Office to register for a class. For clarification, LWV registers voters upon request from organizations, we do not go door-to-door.

If you are still interested in helping with the election process, apply to work the polls; good election officials are always in demand.

*Carol Portman, Voter Registration Coordinator*

*"I hope I have convinced you—the only thing that separates successful people from the ones who aren't is the willingness to work very, very hard."*

*Helen  
Gurley  
Brown*

**LEAGUE AND PROJECT POWER TO THE PEOPLE JOIN FORCES  
TO SPONSOR CANDIDATE FORUMS  
AT THE MISSOURI BLACK EXPO - SUNDAY, AUGUST 5**

With the August 7, Missouri Primary right around the corner, the League of Women Voters of St. Louis was approached by the St. Louis branch of the NAACP representing the Power to the People Project (PPP). A collaboration of “The Divine Nine” Fraternities and Sororities, 100 Black Men, 100 Black Women and the NAACP. The League will conduct a series of candidate forums at the 21<sup>st</sup> Missouri Black Expo (MBE) on Sunday, August 5, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the America’s Center, and produce and provide material to support the PPP registration efforts this fall.

Candidates for the following races have been invited to participate in the forums:

State Senator for Districts 5 and 13

Missouri House of Representative for the Districts 66, 67, 78 and 84

City of St. Louis Treasurer

City of St. Louis Sheriff

In addition to the candidate forums, a hospitality room will be available for the candidates to interact one-on-one with voters and distribute campaign literature. League volunteers will also distribute Voters Guides and information. Participants will have an opportunity to learn to use Vote411.org and print-out a personalized ballot.

For 21 years, the MBE has been an intricate part of the Missouri community. The organization’s history has been on "the cutting edge" of creating a family oriented environment which focuses on providing citizens with exposure to outstanding resources in the areas of youth development, health education and awareness and community development. Approximately 25,000 people attend the MBE annually.

Under the leadership of the co-presidents, Kathleen Farrell and Linda McDaniel, the League is pleased to be able to collaborate with Project Power to the People to bring Voter Service and candidate forums to the Missouri Black Expo and beyond.

**ONE STOP FOR INFORMATION ON NOVEMBER BALLOT INITIATIVES**

The League has partnered with FOCUS St. Louis, the St. Louis County Public Library, and the Policy Forum at Washington University Brown School of Social Work to hold five educational forums on state-wide ballot initiatives that will be on the November 6<sup>th</sup> ballot. Experts and advocates will explain and give pros and cons of each initiative and answer questions from the audience. Issues include the proposed increased cigarette tax, local control of municipal police departments, the appointment process of judges, increasing the minimum wage, and increasing regulation of payday loans.

**Dates and Locations**

August 22 (Wednesday)	St. Louis County Library Headquarters	1640 S. Lindbergh
August 30 (Thursday)	St. Louis County Library – Tesson Ferry	9920 Lin-Ferry Drive
September 5 (Wednesday)	St. Louis County Library- Florissant Valley	195 New Florissant Rd. S.
September 12 (Wednesday)	Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club- St. Louis City	2901 N. Grand
September 13(Thursday)	St. Louis County LibraryBridgeton Trails	3455 McKelvey Rd.

**SAVE THE DATE AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!**



## NON-PARTISAN COURT PLAN

The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports the Non-partisan Court Plan which it worked to get put in the constitution in 1940. It changed the method of electing judges based on parties to an appointive process. It has served the state well. In the last few years there has been an unsuccessful attempt to eliminate the Missouri Plan as it is called. As an alternative, those opposed to the plan have switched to an incremental eroding of the plan. Such an effort will be on the November 2012 ballot. The proposed constitutional amending will change the composition of the judicial commission which nominates three people for the judgeships from which the governor makes an appointment.

Working to defeat Constitutional Amendment 3, (the non-partisan court plan) on the November ballot is a priority for the League of Women Voters of Missouri. **All League members are urged to work against this amendment.** Members will receive more information on this issue in subsequent publications.

In the meantime you may be interested in reading the exact ballot language as well as the fair ballot language which the Secretary of State writes so that voters have a better idea of what they are voting on.

### Constitutional Amendment 3

[Proposed by the 96th General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SJR 51]

#### *Official Ballot Title:*

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change the current nonpartisan selection of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges to a process that gives the governor increased authority to:  
 appoint a majority of the commission that selects these court nominees; and  
 appoint all lawyers to the commission by removing the requirement that the  
 governor's appointees be non-lawyers?

There are no estimated costs or savings expected if this proposal is approved by voters.



### STAND BY YOUR AD!

Do you feel that you have little influence over campaigns and political candidates? Do you wonder how can you compete with the influence of those who can write a \$10 million check to the candidate or Super PAC of their choice? Well, there now seems to be a way.

FactCheck.org, a creation of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania, is well known for evaluating the truthfulness of statements by politicians. Less well known is **FlackCheck.org**, an entity created to “hold the media accountable for their reporting on political campaigns.” It has launched an effort, called “Stand by Your Ad,” that allows us average citizens to actively participate in this process. The Communications Act does not allow local television or radio stations or the Federal Communication Commission to censor or alter in any way political advertising from candidates for federal office (Section 312 of the Communications Act). Stations typically extend this application to candidates for office at all levels (although they are not legally required to do so). This requirement does not extend to third party advertising from political organizations outside the control of the candidate.

Thus, ads from groups like American Crossroads or Priorities USA must meet the same requirements for accuracy as do product ads. Stations are not required to accept advertising from third party groups. If they do, they are responsible legally for material that airs on their stations and are required “to act with reasonable care” to ensure that ads aired on their stations are not false or misleading (www.fcc.gov). PACs and super PACS have already spent almost \$121 million dollars and have received over \$220 million dollars in contributions – and we still have over four months to go before Election Day (see www.opensecrets.org). Stations are taking in huge amounts of money, charging top rates for such ads, and have little incentive to do anything to negatively impact this income. In fact, CBS President Les Moonves has said publically, “Super PACs may be bad for Americans but they’re very good for CBS.” Obviously, the same is true for all other stations and networks.

So, what can you do? Let your local station managers know that you expect them to meet their legal obligations for truthful advertising, including advertising they choose to accept from the PACS and super PACs (yes, it is a choice!). FlackCheck.org has already done the research for you as to the electronic addresses for television stations in your area. Just go to [www.flackcheck.org](http://www.flackcheck.org) and follow the links to the Stand by Your Ad campaign. You can use its generic message to the station managers or write your own. In case you are wondering, there are not a large number of false claims being created. Like all effective advertising, there are just a few of them that are endlessly repeated. By encouraging stations to use their right to insist on the accuracy of these third party ads, stations can turn this windfall of money into protecting the public they serve. Our democracy depends on an informed and active citizenry to survive. Take at least one small step to prevent demagoguery from overwhelming the political process and our independence. Send that message to our station managers today!

Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen, Co-Chairs

Civil Liberties Committee

Columbia/Boone County LWV

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## BIODIVERSITY II: INVASIVE SPECIES

Globalization of both people and products facilitate the introduction of non-native species (both plant and animal). Increasing international human travel is accelerating opportunities for species to be accidentally transported into areas in which they are not considered native. Destruction of natural habitats increases the hardship of native plants and animals in light of accelerated climate change and allows the expansion of non-native plants or animals.

Invasive alien species are non-native organisms which cause harm to the environment, economies and health. While most alien animals, plants or micro-organisms appear benign, and some are beneficial, a small proportion of species become damaging through rapid growth and spread, over-running natural habitats or causing epidemics of disease.

Examples of invasive alien animals include:

Three species of rats (the Black, Norway and Polynesian) have spread to most of the world as hitchhikers on ships.

There are also numerous examples of marine organisms transported in ballast water.

One the most famous is the zebra mussel. Over 200 species have been introduced to the San Francisco Bay in this manner, making it the most heavily invaded estuary in the world.

The accidental release of the Africanized honey bees (AHB) "killer bees" or Africanized bee to Brazil in 1957

Asian carp due to their large size and rapid rate of reproduction; these fish pose a significant risk to the Great Lakes Ecosystem.

Mink, introduced in Scotland for fur farms, have now invaded natural habitats.

The gypsy moth in eastern North America

Many non-native plants have been introduced into new territories, as either ornamental plants or for erosion control, stock feed, or forestry. Whether an exotic will become an invasive species is not understood in the beginning, and many non-native ornamentals are used for many years before suddenly naturalizing and becoming invasive. Examples of invasive plant species include:

Dandelions were an introduced species to North America.

A very troublesome marine species in southern Europe is the seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia*. The origin of the alga in the Mediterranean was thought to be either as a migration through the Suez Canal from the Red Sea, or as an accidental introduction from an aquarium.

Japanese knotweed grows profusely in many nations. Human beings introduced it into many places in the 19th century.

Kudzu was introduced from Japan into the United States at the Japanese pavilion in the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. It is now common along roadsides and other undisturbed areas throughout most of the southeastern United States. Kudzu has been spreading at the rate of 150,000 acres annually. It is now expanding rapidly north and west as increases in winter temperatures reduce control.

Human impact on the environment (global warming, destruction of native habitats and increased movement of human population) facilitates the expansion of invasive species.

Mickey Croyle, Environmental Quality Committee Chair



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Relations Committee will not meet in August. We will have our first meeting of the new LWV year on **September 14**, St Louis Co Library HQ at 10 a.m. Our topic of study for the upcoming year will be the new entity called UN Women. We welcome everyone in the League who has an interest in the United Nations.

Judith Smart, Chair



## EDUCATION



The education committee will meet on Saturday, August 11 at 9:30 am at the League office. We will be working on the Vote411 materials for our collaboration with Kids Voting Missouri. St. Louis City Schools, Jennings Schools, Valley Park Schools and Al Salam Day School

have been selected for us to work with directly, based on where help is most needed. This is a great opportunity for the League to participate in civic engagement.

To volunteer or for more information contact Marty Ott, [martyott06@yahoo.com](mailto:martyott06@yahoo.com), 314.434.0330.

Marty Ott, Chair

## TAILGATE SALE

The League of Women Voters of St. Louis will hold its **“Annual League in the Loop Tailgate Sale” on Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd** at Parking Lot #4 (behind the Loop Market) in University City. The League will not have a booth this year. We will sell booths at \$30.00 per booth until August 31st. Booth purchase after that date is \$40.00 per booth. A booth is 2 parking spaces. Why not get together with some League friends and purchase a booth? You can get rid of your unwanted treasures and help the League at the same time. Have 2 or 3 people get together and buy a booth or would your unit like to purchase a booth? You could always challenge other units and see who is top dog in sales. **For more information contact Barbara Elbrecht at 314.962.2821.**

**Please note: we will not hold a book sale this year.** So please pass your books on to others. The League office will not be collecting books this year.

*Barbara Elbrecht, Chair*



# KICKOFF DINNER

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

YWCA PHYLLIS WHEATLEY

HERITAGE CENTER

2711 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103

*Parking on site*

**SPECIAL BULB  
SALE FOR FALL  
PLANTING !!  
WATCH FOR  
DETAILS !!**

**JOIN FELLOW LEAGUERS FOR AN EVENING OF  
GOOD FRIENDS, FOOD, INTERESTING CONVERSATION &  
WOMEN ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE:**

**A PANEL DISCUSSION**

**SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30 p.m.**

**DINNER: 6:00**

**PANEL PRESENTATION: 7:00**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cost \$25.00 Reservations due September 5th**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount included \_\_\_\_\_

**LWVSTL  
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104,  
St Louis, MO 63144**

**For additional information, call the LWV office, 314.961.6869**



### TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In memory of Joe Kleeman from Glen & Marty Ott and Judith Smart to LWV St. Louis.

### VOLUNTEERS CORNER

The office is in high gear for the August Primary. In addition to the regular mundane office tasks - answering the phones, helping with mailings, etc. Leaguers are busy delivering voter guides. If you find yourself with a few hours to spare, we would be happy to have your help. Please call the office 314/961-6869. Thanks to those willing workers who were in the trenches since the last newsletter: Brenda Banjak, Sally Beck, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marj Courtney, Clyde Creel, Verna Creel, Sue Dellbringge, Brenda Ellis, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Debby Howard, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Catherine Stenger, Enid Tennebaum, and Susan Williams.



Julie Behrens

### From the Executive Director's Desk - Anna Mennerick

My head is still spinning from all that has been accomplished this summer: another Voters Guide, new collaborations, voters satisfied with concrete information on which to base their decisions. The General Election in November doesn't give us much time to pause and reflect, but I want to take even this briefest of moments to thank the staff and volunteers that have kept us going throughout this busy season. With out your dedication and passion, none of this would be possible.



# 25th ANNUAL EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

## 92nd Anniversary of Women Getting the Vote Title IX: Fair Play On and Off the Field

### Speakers on Title IX (40th Anniversary):

**Kathy Bull**, Lead Plaintiff in Bull vs Board of Trustees of Ball State University  
Case recently ruled in favor of Kathy Bull

**Lori Flanagan**, Director of Athletics—University of Missouri St. Louis.

### Special Drawing for :

A Three-Night, Four-Day Stay in an Adobe House in Santa Fe  
(Tickets must be purchased and will be available day of event.)

**Saturday, August 25, 2012**

**10:00 am-2:00 pm**  
(Registration begins at 9:30 am)

**Crowne Plaza Hotel/Clayton MO-7750 Carondelet-Crystal Ballroom**  
Free hotel parking on orange level. For information, call 314.831.5359

### Registration Form

Sign up for Brunch and Program \$37.00\*  
Students 15.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Fund Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Fund Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Missouri Women's Network; mail  
to Joyce Guard Schuetz, 909 Parkview Valley Drive,  
Manchester MO 63011. Call Shirley Breeze (314.831.5359) or Pat Shores (636.938.3958) for additional in-  
formation or late reservations. Limited number of late  
Phone reservations. \*Scholarships are available.

**Deadline August 18,2012.**



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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## No Cost Fundraising Opportunity

Attention *Schnucks* Shoppers

*Schnucks* will donate up to 3% of your purchases to the League's Information Service. (LWVIS)

It's as easy as 1 2 3

1. Pick up a *Schnucks* eScrip card at the customer service counter.
2. Activate the card by calling 800-931-6258. Say your charity is the LWVIS, Group # 500015391 or go to [www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp](http://www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp) and follow instructions.
3. Present your card to the cashier for scanning every time you shop at *Schnucks*.  
The League benefits and it costs you nothing.

\*\*\*\*Many League members are participating in this no cost fundraiser. We hope you will add your name to this list. We receive a check monthly and it requires no soliciting. There is no easier way for you to help the League budget. Join today!

