



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS

8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104,

St Louis, MO 63144

314.961.6869

www.lwvstl.org

MARCH 2012

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Marcia A. Merrins on the LWVUS Board found the following poem in some files. It was written anonymously by a Massachusetts member many years ago. It is nice to know that some things do not change. I hope you will enjoy it.

Linda McDaniel

It seems to me this year,
I'm busier than before.
I'm tempted to resign from the League
Instead I take on more!

I think the answer lies somewhere
Deep inside myself.
I want to see my talents used,
Not rusted on a shelf.

Now why is that? I ask myself,
(For surely that's a reason)
I'll have more time, I tell myself,
Right after the rush season.

I want America to be
A better place to live.
Just talking won't improve it-
We also have to give.

Besides,
League members are my good friends
I couldn't let them down.
Those surface reasons, I advance -
(The real one's further down)

I want to find myself among the
workers, not the floaters-
And that is why I am neck-deep
In the League of Women Voters.

Anonymous

FEATURE ARTICLES

<i>A Member's Poem</i>	1
<i>Message from the Presidents</i>	2
<i>Jan. Planning Report</i>	2
<i>Legislative News</i>	3-4
<i>Great Decisions 2012</i>	4
<i>Privatization Study</i>	5-6
<i>Current Issues - EQ</i>	7
<i>Theatre Party</i>	8
<i>Missouri Lobby Day</i>	9
<i>Committees</i>	10
<i>Unit Meetings</i>	11-12
<i>Member News</i>	13
<i>Volunteer</i>	13
<i>Executive Director</i>	13
<i>March Forums</i>	14

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sat. March 3rd 9:30am	Privatization Study Comm.	Nancy Thompson's Home
Sat. March 3rd 9:30-11:30am	Education Comm.	League Office
Thurs. March 8-Wed. March 13	Unit Meetings	See page 10
Thurs. March 8th 10:30am	Health Care Comm.	Cape Albeon
Tues. March 13th 7:00pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	League Office
Wed. March 21st 6:00pm	LWVSTL Board Meeting	League Office

LOOKING AHEAD

Sat. April 14th, 12:30-4pm	Theatre Day	Fontbonne University
Mon. April 17th, 8am-1pm	Missouri Women's Lobby Day	Jefferson City
Sat. April 28th	Annual Meeting	TBA
Sat. May 5th 9:00-3:00pm	State Workshops	St Charles Community College, Social Sciences Building

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

IT'S ELECTING TIME

The office is bustling with League volunteers working on the Voter's Guide and candidate forums for the April 2012 local elections. It's a big job working with 886 candidates and the ballot initiatives of six counties along with 10 so far and counting candidate forums. Volunteers and candidates are very pleased with how user friendly VOTE 411 is. Voters will be able to print out their own personal ballots and get quality non-partisan information about the candidates and ballot propositions they will consider before casting their votes April 3rd.

Voters have also been calling for information about the upcoming Republican caucuses, how redistricting will affect them, and contact information for elected public officials at all levels. We are already looking ahead to the August primaries and November general election. Yes, it is ELECTING TIME.

Because of the League's increased visibility in the community, we have had a number of requests to work with a number of organizations on issue and candidate forums for summer and fall. It looks like we will be doing five issue forums with FOCUS St. Louis and the St. Louis County Libraries—2 on Voter I.D. legislation and 3 on state tax ballot initiatives and legislation. We are partnering with MASW on a public forum on Voter I.D. issues and have a number of candidate forums in the works for the fall.

One of the most exciting projects we are beginning this spring is the start of LWVSTL's monthly 30 minute television show on STL-TV. The program would be entitled "Impact on Issues" and would have Debbie Monterey as host with Cynthia Todd as the stand-in-person. The show would be informational or educational only. The League would be responsible for selecting the topics, preparing the "run down" sheets and other production tasks. Look for our first show later this spring on Charter channel 992, AT&T channel 99 and also on Youtube!

It is easy to get discouraged if you are following the issues the League cares about: voter suppression, campaign finance reform, redistricting, Clean Air Act enforcement, and fair and progressive tax systems that provide adequate funding for needed government programs, and equal access to quality education. We continue to monitor these issues, make our voice heard, and work for good government at all levels. Watch for ACTION ALERTS and make YOUR voices heard. The League's work has never been more important. Please join us and get involved, your help is needed. Just two or three hours will be of help. It's Electing Time.

Linda McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell

At the January Units we discussed LWVUS Program Planning recommendations to be sent to national for consideration at the Convention in June. These discussions lay the groundwork for possible issues for study, review, concurrence or to say we do not have a recommendation but we did have a program planning meeting. We had 55 members at these units and had great discussion.

The consensus of all units was that the LWV of St. Louis recommendation is No recommendation In a comment box was added: there was very good discussion in units and many thought it was the best program planning we had ever had. There was interest in the concurrence on Sentencing Policy and some wanting to support the concurrence but no new studies. **The discussion included a strong consensus that the LWVUS and local resources and time should be directed to action and advocacy replacing the resources that have been used on studies.**

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☆ see; ☆
☆ when ☆
☆ you get ☆
☆ there, ☆
☆ you'll be ☆
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☆ farther" ☆
☆ J. P. ☆
☆ Morgan ☆
☆☆☆☆☆☆

THE LWVMO ADVOCATES ON VARIETY OF ISSUES BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

A copy of the letter to members of the House Tax Reform Committee on Taxes:

The League of Women Voters urges you to support the **Streamlined Sales Tax** before you today. You might recall that we sent you a similar request last year when this tax was before this committee. Although Missouri law now requires us to collect sales tax on all internet sales we need a mechanism to make this happen. Missouri should enter into the multi-state Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement as soon as possible. The Department should establish the necessary rules to implement provisions of the agreement.

It is important that we equalize the sales tax burden on all purchases made by residents and businesses in Missouri whether bought locally or through the internet. It would help Missouri businesses, large and small who are at an unfair disadvantage compared to out of state retailers. The gap continues to widen because of the increased use of the internet for shopping.

In the process we will be helping the state cope with our financial woes. The increased income to the state is sorely needed to prevent further cuts to essential services.

The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports a tax system which emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden.

We urge you to favorably vote a streamlined tax out of committee.

Copy of letter to the editor to most newspapers in Missouri on the Death Penalty:

For the first time in the Missouri Legislature, there is significant bi-partisan support for the elimination of the Death Penalty. This coincides with a national decline in the use of the Death Penalty. Public opinion is also moving away from support of the death penalty. Although the figure still hovers around 60 % when given the choice between the death penalty and a sentence of life without parole, support for a life sentence increases.

The League of Women Voters supports the abolition of the death penalty. Forty state representatives sponsored an abolition bill in the house this past week. We hope this is a good omen that the bill will advance in the legislature. We have known for years that the death penalty has been used arbitrarily. In Missouri, there is little consistency in the application of the law between and within counties. Unfortunately, there is consistency in the fact that one is more apt to be sentenced to death if one is black, poor or the victim is white.

Everyday prominent individuals, judges, governors, legislators, and employees in the criminal justice system publicly acknowledge that the death penalty system is flawed. They concede that the death penalty has not proven to be a deterrent to crime. However the two most prevailing reasons to end the death penalty are more practical.

Since DNA testing has become available, many death penalty and other inmates have been exonerated because they did not commit the crime for which they were incarcerated. Whether one agrees with the death penalty or not, there is great concern that an innocent person will be executed, and that can never be reversed.

Similarly, a very practically and compelling reason to oppose the imposition of the death penalty is financial. Capital punishment cost the public many times more than a sentence of life in prison. Of course the most important reason for opposing the death penalty is that there is never a justification for taking another's life.

League members will receive action alerts if we are fortunate enough to have the bill come out of committee and reach the House or Senate Floor.

Sydell Shayer, LWVMO Death Penalty Chair

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CON'T**Copy of statement to House Special Standing Committee on
Judicial Reform on the Nonpartisan Court Plan**

The League of Women Voters of Missouri believes that the present Nonpartisan Court Plan is the best plan for choosing judges in Missouri and should not be changed. The League of Women Voters has wholeheartedly supported the plan many times over the years and has reiterated its support. This plan became effective in 1940 because Missouri citizens concluded that the appointment of judges should be devoid of politics. It has served the state and the judicial system well.

Under the nonpartisan court plan candidates for judicial appointment are scrutinized by a panel of citizens who take its job seriously. The candidates go through a rigorous application, research and interview process. The commissioners first individually study each applicant and then as a group use their joint wisdom to choose the best candidates to present to the governor. This being the case, it is not necessary to have the commission repeat its selection process.

Because the selected candidates qualified for the judgeship for which they are being recommended, it is counterproductive to require a senate vote. This could conceivably prolong the whole process. We have seen what happens in other states where politics enter the judicial appointment process. One of the few areas where Missouri has gained positive national recognition is in our Nonpartisan Court Plan where thirty other states have adopted the same or similar plans.

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GREAT DECISIONS 2012

The World Affairs Council of St. Louis and The Ethical Society will be sponsoring the Great Decisions series of moderated discussions on Thursdays during March and April. The meetings and parking are free, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., on the lower level of the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd. The meetings are always informative and focus on current foreign policy issues. Dates and topics this year are: March 1 – Middle East Realignment, March 8 – Promoting Democracy, March 15 – Mexico, March 22 – Cybersecurity, March 29 – Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, April 5 – State of the Oceans, April 12 – Indonesia, and April 19 – Energy Geopolitics. Additional info or questions: please contact the World Affairs Council, 314.727.9988.

Judith Smart, IR Chair

PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES STUDY

Privatization National Study Continues: Consensus in April

Our local committee preparing to lead the consensus discussion at the April units has chosen the following article that aligns with many League members' interest in libraries. We want to alert you though that this article, the consensus questions, and more good reading can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>. We hope you study along with us and get ready for the consensus questions, which will be published in the next In League Reporter.

Nancy Thompson, Chair; Becky Clausen, Eve Golden, and Cindy Mitchell

PUBLIC LIBRARY PRIVATIZATION - A CASE STUDY

By Muriel Strand

Public libraries are caught in the wake of budget meltdowns at all levels of government. Previously, relatively few libraries have privatized certain functions, whether temporarily or permanently. But with revenues declining, more jurisdictions have recently considered subcontracting certain, usually limited, library tasks to the private sector, notably Library Systems & Services, LLC (LSSI).¹ Library Associates Companies (LAC Group), Informational International Associates, and Book Wholesalers, Inc. (BWI) are other possible vendors,² but public libraries seem less aware of them.³

LSSI got their start in 1981, with the Library of Congress and other government agencies. "Founded by library professionals," it is nonetheless a privately-held, for-profit limited liability corporation. Islington Capital Partners is the private equity investor that offers them access to additional capital, allowing LSSI to grow their operations quickly, and to keep up with the information technology that appears to be one of their strong points.⁴

Over the decades, LSSI has contracted with a number of local libraries across the nation, with results that seem to have been generally agreeable and convenient. Of the handful of libraries which have terminated contracts with LSSI, one library director said it was a combination of LSSI accounts-payable tardiness and the local library board feeling sufficiently recovered from an ineffective library director who was the reason for LSSI's presence in the first place. Another system's library director said LSSI had been brought in to help a branch of the Los Angeles County Library become an independent city library, and after the new library was stable the city took over. The long-term LSSI staff, who had been working there, was able to become city staff and acquired pension benefits.⁵

However, California State legislative staff refers to several instances when local governments (in Linden, NJ, Fargo, ND, and Hemet, CA) decided it would be cheaper to bring the work back in house. Decisions about fines and fees, handling cash and acquisitions all require more responsibility and accountability, no matter who performs them.⁶

Public libraries in Jackson County, Oregon, which had been closed due to budget constraints were reopened recently under LSSI contracts. The city of Santa Clarita, with three libraries, decided to subcontract various operations to LSSI rather than continuing to participate in the LA county library system, and by some accounts is now offering more to readers.⁷ At the time of the actual changeover, their contract with LSSI was publicly posted on their website: www.santaclaritalibrary.com. According to California legislative staff, Clarita has budgeted \$8 million to \$12 million for transition costs.

Santa Clarita has budgeted \$8 million to \$12 million for transition costs.

Riverside County, CA, Library decided to contract with LSSI to operate the library, while reserving the right to set policies, rather than continue as a subset of the Riverside City Library.⁸

Recent tentative proposals to bring in LSSI as a way to buffer budget cuts have caused concerns and have been rebuffed in several places, including Stockton, CA.⁹ However, the issue of public pensions and unions, while very important, is not the same issue as the independence and accountability of local libraries, and the protection of free speech. Grappling with the former issue is more difficult when people believe the latter may be threatened thereby, so calmness and clarity are crucial.

In California, legislation that would raise the bar for local cities and counties wishing to contract with companies like LSSI is in a state senate committee as of June 2011.¹⁰ Libraries which decide to privatize would be responsible for financial audits. Previous legislation allowed existing California local library systems to retain the per-capita library revenues from property taxes when a portion of the system seceded, rather than requiring the per-capita money to go with the seceding population. The requirements in Assembly Bill (AB) 438 would apply to non-profits, mostly because many for-profits have non-profit associates.¹¹

Muriel Strand (LWVCA) is a member of the LWVEF Education Study Committee on Privatization of Government Services, Assets and Functions. Produced by the Privatization of Government Services, Assets and Functions Study, 2011, © League of Women Voters

ENDNOTES

1. David Streitfeld, "Anger as a Private Company Takes Over Libraries,": NY Times, September 26, 2010. www.nytimes.com/2010/09/27/business/27libraries.html.
2. LSSI www.lssi.com/; LAC www.lac-group.com/; Information International Associates, www.infointl.com/services/infomgmt; BWI <http://bwibooks.com/>
3. Phone conversation with Beth Postema, library staff in Fargo, ND.
4. Phone conversation with Calabasas Head Librarian, June 2011; Norman Oder, "When LSSI Comes to Town, Library Journal, October 1, 2004. www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA456252.html
5. Phone conversation with Calabasas Head Librarian, June 2011.
6. Phone conversation with Erin Baum, staff for CA Assemblyman Das Williams, sponsor of AB438; "The Beast's Business Model & What It Means for Your Library, February 28, 2011. <http://privatizationbeast.org/2011/02/28/the-beasts-business-model-what-it-means-for-your-library/>
7. <http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/07272011> Privatization—and Pushback—Proceed in Santa Clarita.
8. Gary Christmas, "The Riverside County Library System: Thirteen Years of Innovation, Experimentation, and Progress, June 17, 2010. http://www.countyofriverside.us/export/sites/default/government/docs/Library_White_Paper_June_17_2010.pdf
9. Zachary K. Johnson and David Siders, "Officials consider privatizing libraries to cut costs, April 13, 2010. www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100413/A_NEWS/4130324&cid=sitesearch
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11. Beverly Goldberg, "Privatization—and Pushback—Proceed in Santa Clarita," American Libraries Magazine, July 27, 2011. www.afscmeinfocenter.org/privatizationupdate/library/
12. AB438 www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_438&sess=CUR&house=B

BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Biodiversity is the degree of variation and complexity of living beings on earth. Biodiversity is a measure of the health of the environment. It is in part a function of the climate. Tropical regions have many more different life forms than the Polar Regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. Rapid environmental changes typically have caused mass extinction in the past.

“Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on earth and the natural patterns it forms. This diversity is often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms. So far, about 1.75 million species have been identified, mostly small creatures such as insects. Biodiversity also includes genetic differences within each species - for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock. Yet another aspect of biodiversity is the variety of ecosystems such as those that occur in deserts, forests, wetlands, mountains, lakes, rivers, and agricultural landscapes. In each ecosystem, living creatures, including humans, form a community, interacting with one another and with the air, water, and soil around them” [Convention on Biological Diversity \(http://www.cbd.int/\)](http://www.cbd.int/) (CBD, Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

The biodiversity of an ecosystem is significant to its sustainability. Biodiversity supports ecosystem: air quality, climate (e.g. CO₂ sequestration), water purification, pollination, and prevention of erosion (*Nature* **387**, 253 - 260 (15 May 1997)). Global warming is a major threat to global biodiversity. Coral reefs (biodiversity hotspots) are endangered and will be lost in 20 to 40 years, if the current climate change continues. Since the Stone Age, species loss has accelerated above the prior rate as a result of human activity. The loss of biological species is occurring at a rate 100-10,000 faster than the typical fossil record. Loss of biodiversity may restrict how the world and its creatures can adapt to changing environment.

The populations of developed nations have the highest consumption rates. The increased consumption of the developed world creates and adds additional pressure to the ecosystems as well as reduction in biodiversity. Unsustainable practices along the entire supply chain drive the degradation and disappearance of biodiversity and ecosystem resources, resulting in accelerated climate change. Globalization of both people and products facilitate the introduction of non-native species (both plant and animal). Increasing international human travel are 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.

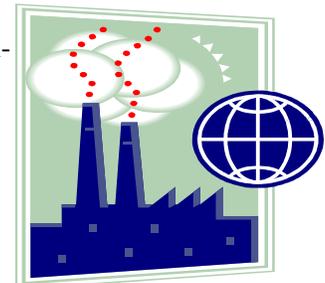
Solving the problem of environmental threats and a dwindling biodiversity has been on the international agenda for some time. The formulation of environmental questions is changing slowly. The three objectives from the [Convention on Biological Diversity](http://www.cbd.int/) are:

- “The conservation of biological diversity”
- “the sustainable use of its components,”
- “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, which should include appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies, and access to appropriate funding”.

Estimates of the number of higher plant species on Earth vary greatly (250,000 to 450,000). Approximately 120 pure chemical substances extracted from higher plants are currently being used in medicine throughout the world (Farnsworth et al., *Medicinal plants in therapy*. Bull. WHO 63:965-981, 1985).

Three drugs in use that were derived from screening plants include *Taxol/Pacitaxel* derived from the Pacific Yew tree used to treat breast cancer, digitalis cardiac glycosides from fox glove and aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) from willow bark. How many potential drugs will be lost as plant species are eliminated by global warming?

Mickey Croyle,
Chair of the Environmental Quality Committee



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

INVITES
LEAGUE MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS and GUESTS
 to our
ANNUAL THEATRE PARTY and
FUNDRAISER

**COMING
 APRIL**



PRESENTS

THE WINTER'S TALE

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
 directed by DEANNA JENT

Fontbonne University

Big Bend Blvd. south of Wydown, Clayton

Saturday April 14, 2012

Reception at 12:30 • Performance at 2:00 pm

One of Shakespeare's psychological dramas; it's a story of jealousy, betrayal, murder and forbidden love set in modern day Seattle and the wilderness of Alaska. The production features Native American music and myth.

Sponsorship Levels:

- Gold:** \$500.00 (6 tickets)
- Silver:** \$300.00 (4 tickets)
- Bronze:** \$150.00 (2 tickets)
- Single Ticket:** \$55.00

For tax-exempt contributions make check payable to LWV Information Service

For contributions to the St. Louis League make check payable to LWV St. Louis

Yes, I will be a sponsor of the Theatre Party on April 14th!

Name _____ Sponsorship level: _____ # of tickets needed: _____

Address to send receipt to: _____

SEND CHECK AND REGISTRATION TO: LWV St. Louis 8706 Manchester Rd Ste 104, St. Louis MO 63144.

COMING SOON

MISSOURI WOMEN'S LOBBY DAY

JEFFERSON CITY-STATE CAPITOL
House Hearing Room 2

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Tentative Schedule

8:00-10:00 Registration House Hearing Room 2
Breakfast for Participants
Networking

10:00-12:00 Legislative Update/Briefing

11:00-1:00 Visits with Legislators

Lunch

Express your views to your legislators.
Learn what your legislator supports and update your knowledge
on issues such as health care, civil liberties, choice, public education,
the environment, immigration, and voting rights.
This is a great opportunity to express your views on women's issues.

*Lunch on your own.
For information, call 314-831-5359.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME-INVITE A FRIEND.



 Registration Fee (\$10 per person)
This includes briefing materials and breakfast.

I cannot attend, but here is my \$10 to provide support for a student or a low-income person.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please make your reservation before April 14, 2012. Complete the form above and mail
to Missouri Women's Lobby Day, 138 Kings Drive, St. Louis County MO 63034 or fax
314-831-3288. (Make checks payable to Missouri Women's Network)
For late reservations or more information, call 314-831-5359 or 573-642-6354.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Our March meeting will be on March 9th. We will examine proposals for our next topic of study; therefore, we invite any Leaguer interested in international studies to join us in selection process for our next subject.

We meet on the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at the St Louis County Library HQ on Lindbergh. All are welcome – please join us.
Judith Smart, IR Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the EQ Committee will be March 13th at the League Office at 7 pm. Dessert will be provided. We will be working on a League Event for this spring, continue our study of Sustainability Issues and plan for a Unit next year. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle (mcroyle@wustl.edu or 314-395-7876) with suggestions or questions.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will meet on Saturday, March 3rd, at 9:30-11:30 am at the League Office. Mr. Ron Orr, Chief Financial Officer of the Pattonville School District has been invited to speak on the Missouri Foundation Formula, Missouri’s primary method of distributing money to Public Schools. This should generate an interesting discussion on the formula bills pending in the General Assembly and how they may impact “formula districts” and “hold harmless” districts. It may be interesting to learn how your local school district may be affected, now and in the future. All members are welcome. If you plan to attend, please contact Marty Ott prior to March 3. In case of inclement weather and cancellation, you will be notified.



Marty Ott, Chair martyott06@yahoo.com

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Health Care Committee will meet at Cape Albeon on Thursday, March 8th, at 10:30 am in the private dining room. Call Katharine Kilpatrick at 636.861.7148 if you have any questions relating to directions to the meeting place or if you plan to attend. Cape Albeon from Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry: go west on Dougherty Ferry to Lake Bend Drive, (after you cross Big Bend) left on Lake Bend Drive and you are there.



PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE

The study committee will meet on Saturday, March 3rd at 9:30 am at my home. Call 314.932.4904 for directions and information. We’ll meet the first Saturday mornings of January through April, and our work will be finished after the April board meeting. All are welcome.

Nancy Thompson, Chair



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March Unit Meetings are the choice of each unit. The dates, times, and locations are on page 12. Members are encouraged to attend a meeting convenient for you.

CREVE COEUR UNIT

Special Opportunity for League Members and Friends
The Creve Coeur/Chesterfield Unit invites you to hear a speaker from

The Missouri Foundation for Health

Lunch is served immediately after the program.

Get answers to all your questions on where health care reform is today.

Please RSVP for planning purposes to slshay@sbcglobal.net or 314.434.5116

THURSDAY EVENING UNIT

Environmental Issues Presentation by Mickey Croyle

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

An update on the St. Louis Public School System presented by a representative of the district.

KIRKWOOD WEBSTER UNIT

Plans for the meeting had not been finalized as of publishing time.

UNIVERSITY CITY UNIT

The unit will not meet this month.

April Unit meetings will be a presentation by the Study Committee on Privatization of Government Services and a discussion of the study questions by Nancy Thompson and her committee.

MARCH MEETING IS UNIT'S CHOICE

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, March 8th
9:30 am
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314.434.5116
Leader: Mary Brown
636.532.0833

Directions: From 270 take Ladue Rd west 1.4 miles to Chasselle. Right on Chasselle. At 2nd circle, turn right on Champiex, 5th house on the right. White house with red sculpture.

ST LOUIS CITY

Saturday, March 10th
10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314.925.8251

THURSDAY EVENING UNIT

Thursday, March 8th
6:30 pm

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Rd, Suite 104
Leader: Esther Clark
314.416.0366

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

NO MEETING THIS MONTH

WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, March 14th
9:30 am

HOME OF JANET FALES

30 Salem Estates, Ladue, 63124
314.994.0171
Leader: Mary Long
314.849.7045

Directions: Take Lindbergh North to Ladue Rd., right on Ladue Rd, take first right which will be Salem Estates. Go to the right in Salem Estates and number 30 will be on the left.

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VOLUNTEER CORNER

Busy, busy, busy that is what our volunteers are this month: helping with the April voter guide information, state fundraising letters, and newsletters. If you have some time to spare for the League we would love to have you. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609 (phone) or volunteers@lwvstl.org (email).

Thanks to Brenda Banjak, Nancy Bowser, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Becky Clausen, Marj Courtney, Clyde Creel, Verna Tallevast Creel, Sue Dellbringge, Robert Elgin, Janet Fales, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Lil Goldman, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Ilene Horenstein, Debby Howard, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Barbara Behiter Nagel, Marty Ott, Janis Pupillo, Mary Beth Reynolds, Louise Reeves, Judith Smart and Patti Walley who helped since our last newsletter. If we neglected to mention anyone, please let us know and we will acknowledge you in the next newsletter.



From the Executive Director's Desk - Anna Mennerick

Do your friends and family start calling before each election because they know you are a member of the League of Women Voters?

Beginning with the April 3rd municipal elections we are pleased to share candidate and ballot information in a new way, Vote411. Start at either the League website (www.lwvstl.org) or www.Vote411.org to find your polling place, candidates and issues. You can compare candidates and read common-sensical descriptions of ballot issues. Your choices can be marked and printed to take with you to the polls.

This will be possible for addresses in Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren Counties (*NO ST. LOUIS CITY ELECTION IN APRIL*). Printed guides will also be distributed at the end of the month. Spread the word and let us know about your experiences with Vote411!



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 MANCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 104
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63144

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CANDIDATE FORUMS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

Thursday, March 1: Hazelwood School Board, 7:00 pm

School District Learning Center, 15955 New Halls Ferry Rd., Florissant, MO 63031

Monday, March 5: Kirkwood School Board, 7:30 to 8:30 pm

North Middle School, 11287 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122

Tuesday, March 6: Rockwood School Board, 7:00 pm * card collector**

Crestview Middle School, 16025 Clayton Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011

Monday, March 12: Parkway School Board, 7:00 to 9:00 pm * timer, card collector**

760 Woods Mill Rd., Manchester, MO 63011

Tuesday, March 13: Kirkwood Mayor and City Council, 7:00 pm * moderator, 2 card collectors**

Meramec Community College, Student Center, 2d Floor, 11333 Big Bend, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Wednesday, March 14: Ladue School Board, 7:00 pm

Ladue Horton Watkins High School Cafeteria, 1201 S. Warson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63124

Thursday, March 22: Wildwood Mayor and City Council, 7:00 pm * card collector**

Wildwood City Hall Council Chambers, 183 Plaza Dr., Wildwood, MO 63040

Thursday, March 22: Ritenour School Board, 7:00 pm * timer, 2 card collectors**

Ritenour Administrative Center, Board Room, 2420 Woodson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63114

Monday, March 26: Webster Groves City Council, 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Webster Groves Rec. Center, 35 E. Glendale, Webster Groves, MO 63119

There are still volunteer opportunities for the March forums*, and your help is greatly appreciated. To volunteer, please contact Pat Jones, Candidate Forum Coordinator, at 314.842.9383 or PatJones@lwvstl.org. Thank you for your willingness to serve!**