



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST LOUIS

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104,
St Louis, MO 63144 314.961.6869

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JANUARY 2013



Secretary of State Robin Carnahan addresses the Holiday Luncheon

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ATTRACTS A RECORD CROWD

Over 80 League members and guests gathered at Orlando's on Saturday, December 8th to celebrate long friendships and make new ones, take stock of what we accomplished this election season, and hear from outgoing Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan what needs to be done to improve elections.

The tables were festive thanks to Eve Golden's superb taste and skill and Bayer's Garden Shoppe's generous donation of poinsettias, the food was good, and the company unbeatable. Many commented that this was the best event we have had in years. There were new members eager to bring the energy of the younger generation to the League and lifelong members eager to work on new projects.

We collected over 150 children's books for Circle of Concern and 100 Neediest Cases. Thanks to Lois Bliss and her crew for making those great gently used books for sale. And thank you to all who helped on the brunch, especially Anna and Julie. Looking around there were many willing hands working on this event both at the office and at the event. Brenda Ellis and Helen Davis went beyond the call of duty, bringing in books to the office for the cause!

Robin Carnahan was inspiring. She explained how the Secretary of State's office really works, shared her concerns about how voter registration and elections were run in Missouri, and urged us to become the agents for change. We thanked her for her years of service and expressed our hopes that we would see her in the public arena again soon. Her speech was just what we needed to reinvigorate our efforts in voter service and advocacy about the election process in Missouri.

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JANUARY CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY 2013					
Tues.	Jan. 1st	OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY			
Tues.	Jan. 8th	7pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	League Office	
Jan. 8th—Jan. 12th		Unit Meetings			See Page 5
Fri.	Jan. 14th	10am	International Relations Comm.	Cnty Library Hdqrts	
Wed.	Jan. 16th	6pm	LWVSTL Board Meeting	League Office	
Thurs.	Jan. 17th	1-3pm	Health Care Comm.	Faith DesPeres Presbyterian Ch.	
Sat.	Jan. 19th	9:30am	Education Committee	League Office	
Mon.	Jan. 21	OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY			
PLANNING AHEAD					
Wed.	April 17	Missouri Legislative Day		Jefferson City	

Message From the Presidents:

MAKE WORKING FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT

YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

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When a presidential election is finally over, it is tempting to say that the League's work is done for the time being. After all, we put in all those hours registering voters, producing Voters Guides, answering citizens' questions, facilitating candidate and issue forums, and passing out vital election information. But then the call came for the Holiday Brunch featuring speaker Robin Carnahan talking about elections. So many of you came to see your friends, hear from our outgoing Secretary of State how important our efforts are and how much needed they will be in the 2013 legislative session, and the passion returned.

We met with the editors of the Post Dispatch last week and they reinforced what we already knew – that the November Voters Guide was the best we had ever produced and that citizens were very grateful for the quality information it contained. We collaborated with our sister Missouri leagues to hammer out a legislative priority list and action plan for the 2013 legislative session, and we embraced the important challenges that face us in the New Year.

One priority is critical for our League. We MUST grow our membership! We need to follow up with the relationships we built during the election with individuals and organizations who share our concerns and persuade them to join our ranks. We need to show young people committed to volunteer service and good government that the League is the BEST place to develop leadership skills and become agents of change. Membership isn't just the job of the board or our excellent membership chair, Catherine Stenger. It is all of our responsibility to share the League work we honor with those around us.

Make bringing in new members and dedicating time and energy to a League project your New Year's resolutions. If everyone recruited just 2 new members, just think about what we could accomplish. And call the office to volunteer to work on the Voters Guide for the April local elections, help with the many candidate forums we know we will be asked to moderate, and go to Jefferson City to make our views known. If the events in New Town Connecticut taught us anything this week, it is that the time for public action is now. We need to talk about and work for change at all levels of government. Nobody does that better than the League of Women Voters!

Linda McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell

SPEAKERS BUREAU NEEDS VOLUNTEERS !!

The Speakers Bureau is in desperate need of speakers available to groups in the coming year. This is one of the League's best public relations efforts and informs organizations, school groups, and others on various topics of interest. Topics include the League, voter service information and what the League does in the community. We are down to 4 people who are available to speak on occasions. Are you interested in helping the Speakers Bureau survive? We need a few more people willing to talk to groups. Contact Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator, at 314.968.3609 or email her at IMBJH@charter.net if you are interested in finding out more – who, what, when, where, & why. But then we all know why – making information available!

WINTER WONDERLAND 2012

It was cold, it was windy, but it was all in a good cause. The League of Women Voters Information Service will receive \$500.00 for our work in staffing the Winter Wonderland display at Tilles Park on December 10. First of all, thanks to Barbara Elbrecht who contacted the St. Louis County Parks Department to see if we could again participate in this fund raising event. Our organization was chosen to work on Monday, December 10. Thanks to Barbara Harris who contacted and lined up the workers for the event. And last, but not least, thanks to those willing workers who braved the elements to work Winter Wonderland. Our thanks go to Billie Teneau, Alan Ranford, Marty Ott, Mary Brown, Ken Biddle, Marjorie Courtney, Nancy Jennings, Barbara Harris, Jim Clark, Kathleen Farrell, Pat Jones, Mary Long, Kathy Maret, Dixie Buford and K Wentzien.



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EARLY REQUESTS FOR SPRING CANDIDATE FORUMS

Election Day was barely over when the League began receiving calls for Candidate Forums prior to the April 2013 election. The following forums have been scheduled:

Tuesday, March 5, 2013: Rockwood School Board

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Crestview Middle School, 16025 Clayton Rd.

Thursday, March 7, 2013: Hazelwood School Board

6:30 pm

Hazelwood School District Learning Center, 15955 New Halls Ferry Rd.

As always, the forums are not possible without our wonderful volunteers. If you would like to moderate, time, collect cards, or be in charge of our information table at the forums listed above, please contact Pat Jones at 314.807.8346 or PatJones@lwvstl.org

The League is also in discussion with several organizations regarding a St. Louis City Mayoral Forum prior to the March primary. Please stay tuned for more details.

Please watch the Legislative Bulletin and the March Missouri Voter for more information about our Legislative Day at the Capitol. It will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 with the League partnering with the American Association of University Women and perhaps other women's groups. This is a great opportunity for the LWVMO to show their support for women's issues and Pay Equity.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND!

BOOKS FOR KIDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At our Holiday Luncheon on December 8th, the generosity of League members and guests resulted in over 150 books collected. The books were delivered to the Circle of Concern in Valley Park and the 100 Neediest Cases office. Parents shopping for these gifts, and their children, thank you.



JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS: PLANNING OUR ADVOCACY ON TOP PRIORITIES

U The October unit meetings told us a great deal about what members thought was most important. We heard you. So, instead of doing the usual program planning review of all state and local positions in January, we are going to concentrate on our **top priorities**, review our state and local positions relevant to them, and make a plan to **get down to business and act!** LWV Missouri has set as its topic three legislative priorities and is ready to coordinate our efforts with theirs. Our own Marty Ott is the coordinator of those efforts, so we will have the inside track on what is going on in the Legislature.

N Here are the LWV Missouri legislative priorities for 2013:

- ◆ Electoral process that is accurate, accountable, accessible, fair, efficient and uniform
 - Support existing Voter ID system
 - Support campaign Spending Caps
- ◆ Equal access to comprehensive quality health care
 - Expand Medicaid
 - Preserve rural hospitals
- ◆ Equitable tax policy promoting financial stability and adequate funding for state services
 - Support internet sales tax and individual income tax
 - Oppose reduction in corporate taxes and tax limits on expenditures

I These priorities dovetail well with the ones our members identified as most important to them. All units reported great concern about campaign financing and the election process. There was also concern about the damage done by extreme partisanship and uncivil discourse.

T Marty, Linda and I will be coming to the January unit meetings to help members link these priorities with our state and local program positions, identify opportunities to use them for advocacy, and develop action plans to act on both the state and local levels this spring.

S The January unit meetings **will be very important!** Improving the election process is at the heart of what we do and our commitment to comprehensive quality health care and equitable tax policy is unwavering. Here is our opportunity to build on the high visibility we achieved during the November election period and let these policy makers know that **we are watching and we will act!**

All members should make it their highest priority to attend the January unit meetings and bring like-minded friends who care about these issues as well. All it takes is one good League meeting with intelligent committed people to get them to join our ranks.

See you in January!

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, January 10th
 9:30 am
 Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER
 709 Champeix Lane
 314.434.5116
 Leader: Eve Golden 314.469.9985

ST LOUIS CITY

Saturday, January 12th
 10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH
 Euclid and Washington
 Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert 314.925.8251

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, January 8th
 9:30 am

HOME of CAROL PORTMAN
 155 N. Hanley Hanley & Pershing
 Leader: Carol Portman 314.726.3269

WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, January 9th
 9:30 am

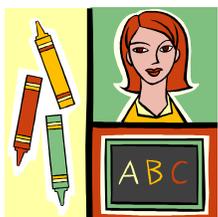
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 OF WEBSTER GROVES UCC
 10 W. Lockwood , Webster Groves
 Leader: K Wentzien
 314.961.0894 or 314.805.6950(cell)

The IR Committee will meet on Friday, January 4 at 10am, at the St Louis County Library Headquarters at Clayton Rd. and Lindbergh Blvd. We hope our topic - UN Women - will be of interest to many of you.
Judith Smart, IR Chair



The next meeting of the EQ Committee will be Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 pm at the League Office. We will be focusing on Climate Change in the greater St. Louis community . Dessert will be provided. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle (mcroyle@wustl.edu or 314.395.7876) . Anyone interested in natural resources, environmental issues: air, water, soil, land use, pollution prevention, food safety, sustainability, conservation are welcomed and encouraged to attend.
Mickey Croyle, Chair

Please join the Health Care Committee on Thursday, January 17th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church (11155 Clayton Rd. 63131). If you are interested, but cannot attend please contact Dianne about your interest. Phone: 314.439.9511 or email: dmo-drell@sbcglobal.net.



The Education Committee will meet on January 19, 2013 at 9:30 am at the League Office. Members are welcome. We are considering some current reform movements in public education. Members have expressed an interest in learning more about "Virtual Schooling in Missouri". Phone: 314.434.0330 or email martyott06@yahoo.com. Please join us on Jan. 19th. In case of inclement weather, please contact Marty Ott.
Marty Ott, Chair

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Our April Units will be an Update on Sustainability Activities in the St Louis Region. This month's article will present an overview of Sustainability in University City. Next month we will hear about St Louis City. We would ask local Units to contact their local government and learn the status of Sustainability in their City or Township.

SUSTAINABILITY IN UNIVERSITY CITY

University City has been recycling since the 1970's and implemented the first curbside collection program in the nation and the first single-stream program in the state. About 32% of the total solid waste is recycled. Compact fluorescent bulbs and batteries can be recycled at City Hall. Yard waste is composted and chopped up for mulch. The city participates in tire, electronic and hazardous waste recycling events.

Government policy is to reduce, reuse and recycle when printing & copying.

U City was one of the first communities to require an occupancy permit thus ensuring that buildings in U City do not fall into disrepair and are reused rather than demolished. The renovated City Hall and one new elementary school received LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and a second school has applied for LEED certification. A new green building code including the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code is awaiting adoption.

U City implemented a Rain Barrel program to collect storm water for reuse in gardens. In 2013, a rebate will help residents install rainscape features in their gardens to further deal with storm runoff. The city has four community vegetable gardens and more than 350 community flower gardens with gardening practices focused on sustainability and maintained with the help of nearly 150 volunteers. Future plans for parks include sustainability features such as waterless urinals in the restrooms, native plants, pervious pavement and recycling stations. Furthermore the park area being developed along the River des Peres, where flash flooding had occurred, may become part of the Great Rivers Centennial Greenway, a vision that started at the Green Center in University City.

Steps taken to guide sustainability decisions for the city include the following: a greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory established the residential sector as the largest emitter followed by transportation & commercial sectors; a street lighting study was performed to develop energy cost savings options; and an energy audit of 13 City buildings provided a list of energy conservation measures which can be implemented including occupancy sensors to lights, replacing inefficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and retrofitting light fixtures to high-efficiency options. A master plan is being formulated which seeks to provide viable transportation options for all its residents; this includes recommendations on how to make the city streets safe for walking and biking.

Jitka Olander
LWV STL Environmental Quality Committee

New Members:
Elizabeth Jung
25 Kassebaum Ln. Apt. 201
St. Louis MO 63129-1698

Address Change:
Bill Mantenband
1 New Ballas Place
St Louis, MO 63146-8700



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TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In memory of Doris Buzzell from Mary Ellen Brucker, Robert & Marie Ingram, Linda McDaniel, Jeanne Morrel-Franklin, Marty Ott, Mary Beth Reynolds, Pat Soraghan, Nancy Miller, Sydell Shayer and K Wentzien to the LWV St. Louis.

In memory of Doris Buzzell from Nancy Bowser, Kathleen Farrell and Cindy Mitchell to the LWV Information Service.

In memory of Adelaide Schlafly from Sydell Shayer to the LWV St. Louis.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped throughout the year of 2012. We look forward to working with you in 2013. Those who volunteered since our last newsletter include Stephen Aylward, Brenda Banjak, Esther Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, and Catherine Stenger. If you have a few extra free hours you can devote to the League, we have many opportunities available.

Please contact Anna Mennerick at the League office 314.961.6869 to offer your services.
Julie Behrens, Staff



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From the Executive Director's Desk - Anna Mennerick

Well we did it! Through the efforts of many and the support of all, we completed another presidential election process. It was my first with the League and so I didn't know exactly what to expect, but you are the pros. Thanks to all of you who helped me learn what was needed and how to provide it. And the biggest thanks for helping the public learn what they needed in order to fully participate in the democratic process. I am looking forward to taking these lessons learned into the new year. The best part is knowing you will all be with me in our next adventures.



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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 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!

