



IN LEAGUE REPORTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
314-961-6869
www.lwvstl.org
January, 2009

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

A fresh, clean year beckons. Come January each year people make resolutions. In the League we call it program planning. We have position statements that define issues the members have studied over time (www.lwvstl.org). Now is when we decide if they are still pertinent and if there are other areas we wish to study. Because of the wide range of topics we must set priorities and focus our efforts where there is member interest and an opportunity to make a difference. This is done for the local level in odd-numbered years during the January unit meetings for board review and approval during the annual meeting in May.

The national League has selected eight priority areas for 08-09. They include tax policy, global climate change, health care reform, ethics and lobbying reform. (For the complete list go to www.lwvus.org); state League priorities are taxation, the election process and global warming as well as health care and education (more info at www.lwvmissouri.org.)

Where do you think we should be spending our time and effort for the next two years?

Sincerely,

Doris Buggell

2008-2009 LWV ST. LOUIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Editor--Joyce Guard

CALENDAR

	Dec. 22- 26		Office Closed		
	Jan. 1-2		Office Closed		
	Jan. 8 - 14		January Units	pg 2	
Fri.	Jan. 9	10:00 AM	International Relations Committee	pg 3	St. Louis County Library
Tue.	Jan. 13	5:30 PM	Environmental Quality Committee	pg 3	League Office
Thurs.	Jan. 15	10:00 AM	Health Care Committee	pg 3	Cape Albeon Ret. Com.
Sat.	Jan. 17	9:30 AM	Education Committee	pg 3	League Office
Sat.	Jan. 17	10 -6	Loop Ice Carnival	pg 7	University City
Mon.	Jan. 19		Office Closed – Martin Luther King Day		
Sat.	Jan. 31	11:00 AM	Housing Committee	pg 3	Companion Bread Co. 4651 Maryland CWE

January Unit Meetings

Program Planning

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday January 8
9:30 a.m. meeting
Noon salad lunch
State and Local Program Planning

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314-434-5116
Leader: Marion Stuvland
636-391-7589

From 270 take Ladue Road west 1.4 miles to Chasselle, Right on Chasselle, at 2nd circle, turn right on Champeix, 5th house on the right. White house with red sculpture

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, January 8
7:00 p.m.
State and Local Program Planning

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
314-961-6869
Leader: Esther Clark
314-416-0366

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, January 10
10:30 a.m.
State and Local Program Planning

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314-773-8719

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

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, January 13
9:15 a.m. coffee
9:30 a.m. meeting
State and Local Program Planning

HOME OF ELISE JOERGER

7136 Kingsbury
314-725-4829
Leader: Carol Portman

North on Big Bend, 1st stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2nd block on left.

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, January 14
9:30 a.m. meeting
State and Local Program Planning

CAPE ALBEON

3380 Lake Bend Drive, Valley Park
636-861-0287
Leader: Mary Long
314-849-7045

Contacts: Lolly Wehrli, Katharine Kilpatric, Evelyn Buretta

From Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry, go West on Dougherty Ferry, cross Big Bend and turn left on Lake Bend Drive.

At the January Unit Meetings, members will participate in planning the state and local programs for the next two years. To make the meeting more interesting, we will not go over every item on the current state program. We will brain storm about issues which are important to you and on which you want the League to take action, such as health care, election issues (early voting), taxes, the death penalty, public transportation (Metro), education, etc, etc.

Member responses will be recorded and sent to the State Board.

Enid Tennebaum, Vice President



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations (IR) committee held its annual dining out on December 12 at the House of India on Delmar. Because we are studying Pakistan we thought food of the Indian subcontinent would be appropriate this year. From carrot/lentil salad through tandoori chicken to kheer for dessert the buffet was delicious. Not only did the twenty-three Leaguers and friends enjoy the food but also we appreciated having the time to socialize before we return to our committee's study in the New Year. Our next regular meeting will be at 10 a.m. on January 9 at the County Library HQ.

Judith Smart, IR Chair

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE



The Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10 am. We will meet at Cape Albeon in the private dining room and we will discuss the League's position on health care and determine the issues we wish to pursue for the coming year. If you have questions call Katharine Kilpatric at 636-861-7148.

Katharine Kilpatric, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Environmental Quality Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the League office.

Nancy Bowser, Chair



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will meet on Saturday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the League office. Our speaker will be a member of the MNEA. Everyone is welcome.

Georgia Archibald, Chair

HOUSING COMMITTEE



The Housing Committee will meet on Saturday, January 31 at 11 a.m. at the Companion Bread Company 4651 Maryland in the Central West End, 2 doors east of Euclid. All interested members are invited. For more information contact Charlene Dummett at 314-652-6266.

Charlene Dummett, Chair

AMEREN VICE PRESIDENT UPDATES LEAGUE ON THE STATUS OF "GREEN" POWER IN MISSOURI

Ameren UE is working hard to deliver "green" power to customers, keep prices low and increase efficiency -- and it's succeeding better than many people think, although many problems remain. That's the message Stephen Kidwell, Ameren's vice president for Regulatory Affairs, brought to an enthusiastic audience at the League's annual Holiday Party, Dec. 6 at the Viking Restaurant in Sunset Hills.

Kidwell surprised his listeners by telling them that Ameren's rates in the St. Louis area are among the lowest in the nation -- 6.88 cents per kilowatt hour, versus a national average of 10.8 cents. Since 1991, he said, rates here have gone down 10 percent, while the national average has increased 30 percent. If our electric bills are higher, he said, it's because we use more power -- for computers, bigger houses, outside lights and more. Thus, he said, though the *rate* of growth in electrical use is declining, actual growth is increasing.

Ameren's Power On is a \$1 billion program to improve the reliability and environmental responsibility of power. Tree trimming, "undergrounding" and facilities inspections (of poles and other service installations) are three of the most effective means of insuring reliable power delivery, he said.

Putting lines underground is almost prohibitively expensive, he noted; there are only 40 miles' worth of new underground wires in the entire state of Missouri.

Ameren will need a new power plant between 2018 and 2020, Kidwell told the League; it will cost from six to nine billion dollars, and the decision to build must be made by 2011.

Ameren is also "committed to adding the first 100 megawatts of wind power to our system before the end of 2009," Kidwell said. However, the only two wind-generating areas in Missouri are in the northwest and northeast corners, he added, and getting wind power from its main source (the central plains) to where it's needed is still a problem. Other types of clean power generation are less promising, Kidwell indicated. Solar power is "very expensive compared to other sources....and at least 10 to 20% costlier than coal." In the area of hydro-electric generation, Ameren is "looking at some smaller projects." The utility is also working on CCS -- Carbon Capture and Sequestration -- a technology to trap carbon emissions and inject them into existing geological formations.

Nuclear energy is still an option, he said. Ameren would get tax credits for starting a nuclear project by 2008, so it has started the licensing process with an option to build, Kidwell said, with "no decisions yet" on the project.

Mr. Kidwell responded to questions from the audience of some 55 League members. Prior to his talk, President Doris Buzzell presented a gift to Julie Behrens in appreciation for her devoted extra work for the League in the past few months; members gave Julie a standing ovation. Kathleen Farrell won the gift basket raffle, and Janice Dahl outbid other contenders to win the League framed print donated by Agnes Garino.

Mary Ellen Brucker
Public Relations

Remember Your Donation to the Information Service is Critical to the Organization!

League members are undeniably generous, so as the year comes to a close, don't forget to join your peers in donating to the League of Women Voters Information Service. You can **ASSURE DEMOCRACY WORKS** by making your contribution to the *League of Women Voters Information Service today. We need your support.*

Your tax-deductible donation will fund operations in support of education and information services that are so important to your organization. Here in St. Louis, we are the organization providing voter registration for new citizens, conducting candidate forums, bringing the community Voter Guides, and holding voter registration drives so more Americans take the opportunity to vote.

Donations are Down...

We are seeing a downturn in donations, no doubt the result of tougher economic times. But please remember that the operations of the office depend on your generosity.

To date, 41 League members have donated \$3,385 to the LWV Information Service. Last year, we topped \$8,500!

After a successful, busy and expensive election season, we need you more than ever!

So we are Setting a Goal...

We are looking for donations of \$100 from 59 more members to make our goal of \$8,500 a reality.

Can't do it? No problem.

Make a donation of \$50. Find a fellow League member to make the other \$50 donation. Or find a friend who used the Voters Guide or on-line version of Smart Voter.

- If 100 members give \$85 each, we make our goal.
- If 200 members give \$42.50 each, we make our goal.
- If every member gives \$24.20, we make our goal.

What is our goal?

Your League stands for the American ideal of an educated and active electorate. As a member, no one knows better than you how well our organization does in representing Democracy in America.

In St. Louis, more than 400 member volunteers like you carry out the work of the League in the City and County.

But the **League Information Service** needs your **tax-deductible contributions to continue our work.** What does that achieve? Why should you invest?

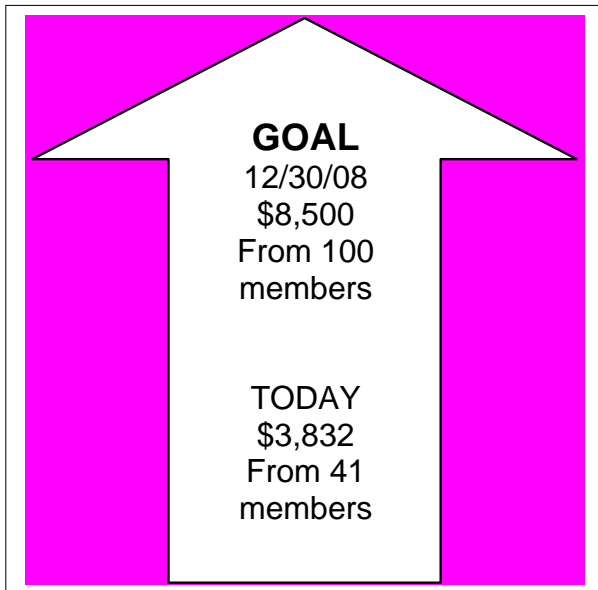
- ✓ \$100 will help us print information to educate voters
- ✓ \$500 in contributions allows volunteers to provide a breadth of civic information to voters
- ✓ \$1,000 produces more Voters Guides for distribution to City and County libraries, universities and senior citizen centers in primary and general elections
- ✓ \$2,500 promotes special educational forums, unit meetings, community events, forums and information in both print and on a new LWV-website
- ✓ Every dollar you can give will help the Information Service continue its important work!
- ✓ No contribution is too small! Your contribution is significant!

Office space, telephones and the technology and staff who support LWV-IS publications and voter education activities are essential expenses.

They are not covered by your dues dollars. Your contributions are needed!

You can **ASSURE DEMOCRACY WORKS** with your contribution.

The time has never been more critical. The time is now!



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 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.

***Thirty 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!

MEMBERSHIP

Once again this year, the League has been invited to participate at The Loop Ice Carnival in University City from 10am-6pm on Saturday, January 17, 2009. We are looking for volunteers to work that day for either 2 or 4 hour periods. If you are able to work the Carnival please contact me either by email at irishlass97@sbcglobal.net or by phone.

Patti Walley, Membership



SPEAKERS BUREAU

In December, after the busy pre-presidential election season, members of the Speakers Bureau are taking a much needed rest from speaker requests.

Marjorie Courtney, Coordinator

WINTER WONDERLAND

It was cold but the winds had died down and it didn't rain as we collected money from 706 cars at the Tilles Park Winter Wonderland.

A huge thank you to Mary Beth Reynolds, Susan Fluegel, Esther Clark, Marj Courtney, and Denny, Elise, Paul, and Carl Joerger. We had fun wishing Merry Christmas to the people in the dozens of carriages as they drove through.

Barbara Elbrecht, Chair

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

This month we were saddened to learn that two of our League members have lost sons: Joseph Burke Chilton, son of Emma Lee Chilton and Dr. Keith Parker, son of Mary Parker. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families and our thoughts are with you at this time.

In memory of Helen Silverman from Jeanne Morrel-Franklin and Vivian Schmidt to LWV Information Service.

In memory of Helen Silverman from the Charles Klamann Clan and the St. Louis Medical Librarians to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Maxine Gilner's Birthday from Brenda Banjak to LWV St. Louis.

In memory of Joseph Burke Chilton, Emma Lee Chilton's son, from Jeanne Morrel-Franklin to LWV Information Service.

In memory of Joseph Burke Chilton, Emma Lee Chilton's son, from Barbara Reinhard to LWV St. Louis.

