

JULY 2011



# IN LEAGUE REPORTER JULY 2011

## LWVSTL RESPONDS TO POST DISPATCH EDITORIAL

*On June 10th the Post Dispatch published an editorial commending the League for advancing "important issues through aggressive political action." They encouraged the League to "set an example" and "be tough and fair and transparent about its donors."*

We appreciate the Post-Dispatch's support for clean air and pointing out the connection with votes in Congress in our recent television ad campaign discussed in the editorial "A third way" (June 10).

According to a 2005 study reported by the Missouri Department of Public Health, asthma, a disease influenced by air quality, affects approximately 500,000 Missourians. The League of Women Voters has taken a very strong position in favor of clean air and its effect on public health. We are proud of our advocacy work over the years, from protecting voters' rights to fighting for the retention of the earnings tax in St. Louis. We have worked to support the Clean Air Act for 40 years and work with a broad range of public health and environmental groups in holding elected officials accountable for their votes on clean-air issues.

The editorial raised a concern about who paid for the League's ads. The important point to make is that the League of Women Voters is supporting the Clean Air Act to protect public health. The League is not a fly-by-night front organization set up to speak for someone else. It has been active in the community for more than 90 years. The public knows who is speaking. This message is our voice, based on the positions taken by our members. Like any large public-interest membership organization, we raise funds from a variety of sources and provide information on those sources in annual reports.

The Air Quality Index indicated several times in the last two weeks that the air in our region was unhealthy for sensitive groups. We need to keep the pressure on.

Linda Claire McDaniel • Brentwood

Kathleen Farrell • Brentwood Co-Presidents, St. Louis League of Women Voters

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Mon. July 4 OFFICE CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sat. July 16 9:30-11:30am Education Committee League Office

### LOOKING AHEAD

Sat. Aug 20 10am-2pm Equality Day Brunch Crown Plaza Hotel, Clayton

### 2011-2012 LWVSTL BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Pres. Linda C McDaniel  
Kathleen Farrell  
1st V.P. Pat Jones  
2nd V.P. Nancy Miller  
3rd V.P. Enid Tennenbaum  
Sec'y Mary Beth Reynolds  
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Katharine Kilpatric  
Marty Ott  
Sydell Shayer  
Nancy Thompson

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear friends,

Who ever said that summer would be quiet? It is hard to keep quiet when Congress is in the midst of the debate over the debt ceiling extension and cuts to critical programs. You can follow LWVUS's actions through messages from President Elisabeth MacNamara and on the LWVUS website. Marty Ott is chairing the national consensus study on education and Nancy Thompson has volunteered to chair the second national study on privatization of government services. We are very grateful for their willingness to serve. You will be hearing more about their work soon. On the state level, we are working together to encourage Governor Nixon to veto SB3 which imposes stringent identification requirements for voting as well as requirements for advance voting. LWV MO is working with the coalition Missouri Voter Protection Advocate Advancement Project to oppose Photo I.D, Requirements for Voting. This issue will be a central part of our advocacy and citizen education work next year. ~~You will be hearing~~ more next month about specific action steps and activities on Voter I.D. On the local level, we will begin a study to re-examine the issues of the relationship between the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. We thank Becky Clausen for agreeing to chair that study.

We know that the topics of education, privatization and city/county government relations are important to many of you. Working on a study committee is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about these issues and work with intelligent committed fellow Leaguers. Think about which one of these committees you would like to join and make a commitment.

Your board met this week to work on next year's program and discussed a number of ideas for program initiatives—the critical role of civic education, a public education initiative to explain what implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act will mean to people's every day lives, and the role of government to provide for the general welfare—a discussion of what is the role of government to provide services to the people. We will have more time to devote to these kinds of programs next year because we won't face large elections until spring 2012--- fewer Voters Guide and Candidate Forum demands. We would like to hear your thoughts on these ideas and any other ideas for programs you would like us to consider.

Finally, we have received a lot of media attention over the last few weeks. In one week alone, the Post-Dispatch featured the suffragettes' "walkless talkless" demonstration at the 1916 Democratic Convention in St. Louis (P-D, 6/12/11, p. M2), an editorial on the LWVUS television ad campaign critiquing the votes of U.S. Sens. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. and Scott Brown, R-Mass. for their votes on clean-air legislation (P-D, 6/10/11) and our response to that editorial reprinted in this newsletter (P-D, 6/14/11). It is clear that we need to remind ourselves and educate the public about the two missions of the League- to provide non-partisan voter service AND to take action to advocate for the program positions we have at the national, state, and local levels.

We still have serious concerns about the process about how LWVUS decided to run those particular ads, their content, and the lack of input from League members in Missouri. We continue to bring those concerns to the national office and LWVUS Board. But we must defend our right to do advocacy work.

What do they say about St. Louis long hot summers? The heat is on in the League office as well with all of these things to work on! We would like to hear your thoughts on these projects and issues. Call or email us.

Kathleen Farrell

Linda McDaniel



## Missouri League Opposes Photo I.D. Requirements for Voting

The League of Women Voters of Missouri is working with the coalition Missouri Voter Protection Advocate Advancement Project to urge Governor Jay Nixon to veto SB3 which imposes stringent identification requirements for voting as well as requirements for advance voting.

Under this act, students attending Missouri colleges and universities would not be able to register to vote in Missouri if they had drivers' licenses or other identification from other states even with their college/university I.D.'s. The requirements to obtain the required identification produce significant barriers to the poor and elderly. The League has historically opposed such measures and in 2006 successfully challenged Voter I.D. legislation in the Missouri Supreme Court.

Current information lists the number of Missouri Voters without a current photo ID in St. Louis City County at 29,949 and St Louis County at 51,708. The total number of Missouri voters without current photo IDs is 229,881.

We will keep you posted on additional actions by the coalition and our League. Making voting accessible to all is at the center of League principles. We will be devoting significant resources to this issue this year.

**Late breaking news at press time. Governor Nixon vetoed the bill. Stay tuned for further developments if/when an override campaign is mounted.**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> HOUSING AUTHORITY ELECTION

Volunteers are needed to conduct the St. Louis Housing Authority election on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. You can work one of the three shifts below:

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00-6:00 p.m.

6:00-9:00 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.

Kathleen Kelly has worked on this project for several years and will be the point person again. She provides you with all the information you need. Step up and volunteer. Contact Kathleen at: [dkbkmk01@swbell.net](mailto:dkbkmk01@swbell.net) or 314-533-3972.

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## THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION

Five background papers have been provided for the **LWVUS Consensus Study on the Federal Role in Education**. This is the second in a series of articles providing members with a briefing of what to expect when the Consensus Study is presented this Fall. Please watch for more background information in the coming months.

### Funding and Equity Issues

When the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the ruling that sanctioned “separate but equal”, it declared that state laws were unconstitutional and mandated the end of segregation. Since then there have been many attempts to define equality by using equity of funding as an attempt to equalize educational opportunities by sharing resources with equal access across schools. Equity denotes fairness and “opportunity to learn” that are often denied children in poverty.

The 1965, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the

1970, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) were created to minimize or eliminate inequalities and close achievement gaps. Initially ESEA was intended to provide additional resources to districts serving low-income families with little federal government involvement on how the resources were utilized. With sequential amendments and reauthorization, ESEA’s 2001 structure, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), includes Title I through Title X, categorical support – aid that is targeted to a specific student population.

Currently, Missouri, like many states, relies heavily on local property taxes to fund education and tends to have large inequities in school funding. **Nationally**, money from the federal government adds less than 10% to local school **budgets**, yet it contributes to the rules of how the money is spent

The latest federal program, Race to the Top (RTTT) shifted the basis of awarding funds to emphasize competition to incentives for merit pay, switching from

NCLB’s punitives. So far only 12 states have received RTTT funds.

**Our next Summer meeting is July 16, 9:30 11:30 am at the League Office.** Members are welcomed to attend and join our discussion on this topic. We would really appreciate additional members joining our committee to help with this timely study.

Marty Ott, chair  
314-434-0330  
martyott06@yahoo.com



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

### DON'T SEND YOUR COFFEE GROUNDS TO THE LANDFILL !!

Yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 26 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead! You can reuse your coffee grounds by recycling them in your garden. If you make a daily pot of coffee, you have a fabulous source of organic matter right at your fingertips. Coffee grounds are a "green," meaning an item that is rich in nitrogen (1.45% nitrogen). They also contain magnesium, calcium, potassium, and other trace minerals.

There are several ways you can put used coffee grounds to work in your garden and home:

Put coffee grounds in your compost bin. They are a valuable source of nitrogen. Great for compost. Coffee grounds add great texture and acidity to your compost. Tea bags work well too.

Add grounds directly to the soil in your garden. You can scratch it into the top couple inches of soil, or just sprinkle the grounds on top and leave it alone.

Coffee grounds can control some bugs. Coffee beans can create a slug and snail barrier. Coffee grounds are both abrasive and acidic, so a barrier of grounds placed near slug-prone plants such as Hostas may help to control damage from these garden pests. Ants also hate coffee. So spread your old grounds around where you have ant problems outdoors. Deter bugs from your house plants and your home by adding some coffee grounds to your potted or garden plants.

You can make a liquid fertilizer out of coffee grounds. Add two cups of used coffee grounds to a five-gallon bucket of water. Let the "tea" steep for a few hours or overnight. You can use this



concoction as a liquid fertilizer for garden and container plants. It also makes a great foliar feed.

If you have a worm bin just add the coffee grounds. Worms love coffee grounds! Add some to your worm bin every week or so. Just don't add too many at once, because the acidity could bother your worms. A cup or so of grounds per week for a small worm bin is perfect.

Mickey Croyle, Chrm EQ Committee

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

There will be no meetings of the International Relations Committee in June, July or August. We will continue our study of China in September. Please join us then—usual place, date and time.

*Judith Smart, Chrm.*





# M E M B E R N E W S

## VOLUNTEER CORNER by Julie Behrens

Even though it is summer, well almost officially summer, the League office continues to be busy. Thanks to the following who helped with various tasks - newsletters, general office work (working on maintaining and updating databases, filing, and staffing the office while the staff is on vacation or comp. time), voter registration, membership, and the ever popular fundraising. Those who contributed time and effort: Brenda Banjak, Barb Behiter, Nancy

Bowser, Mary K. Brown, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Marj Courtney, Clyde Creel, Verna Creel, Kathleen Farrell, Susan Fluegel, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Carol Portman, Janis Puppillo, Louise Reeves, Judith Smart, and Enid Tennebaum. If we have neglected to mention anyone, please let us know and we will acknowledge you in the next newsletter.

There are always tasks to do so if you are willing to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609 or email Barbara at [IMBJH@charter.net](mailto:IMBJH@charter.net)



## LEAGUE IN THE LOOP TAILGATE SALE

Our Annual League in the Loop Tailgate Sale will be held on Labor Day, Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Sept. 1st. Booth purchase after that date is \$40.00 per booth.** A booth is 2 parking spaces. Are you interested in purchasing a booth to see those terrific treasures you have finally decided to part with help make money for the League? **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.** See p. 8

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

As we catch our collective breath after Spring elections and events, we are already organizing for the 2012 election frenzy. This will be my first "big" election year and hope the lessons learned lead to lots of voter service delivered with your help. Because of vacation schedules and staff cuts, it may take us a bit longer to respond to requests for Joint Office Support. Our presidents will be helping to manage the workload and development efforts are underway to restore and expand our impact in the community.

# 24th ANNUAL EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

## 91st Anniversary of Women Getting the Vote

**Speaker: Betty Dukes**  
 Lead Plaintiff in Supreme Court Case  
*Dukes vs. Wal-Mart*

This is the biggest sex discrimination case in history. It seeks to establish class action status for a case with wide significance for other cases, especially those dealing with sex discrimination.

## Saturday, August 20, 2011

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

**Honorees: Barbara Bennett • Hon. Joan Bray • Hon. Rita Days**  
**Presentations include Election and Legislative Issues**  
**• Political Action • Awards • Women's Equity**

Special drawing: Three-night Stay at Condo at Lake of the Ozarks  
 (Tickets must be purchased and will be available day of event.)

**Crowne Plaza Hotel/Clayton MO -- 7750 Carondelet -- Crystal Ballroom**  
 Free hotel parking on orange level. For information, call 314-831-5359.

Registration Form

\_\_\_\_\_

*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_

*City/State/ZIP*

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*E-Mail*

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*Phone*

Sign up for

Brunch and Program	\$35.00*
Students	15.00
Educational Fund Donation	_____
Scholarship Fund Donation	_____
Total	\$ _____

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 information or late reservations. Limited number of late reservations. Deadline August 15.

\*Scholarships are available.



**IN LEAGUE REPORTER**

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST. LOUIS MO  
PERMIT NO.1481

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**LEAGUE IN THE LOOP TAILGATE SALE 2011      LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2011**

**NOTE: SALE WILL BE HELD - RAIN OR SHINE!**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces at \$30.00 Each \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
**COST BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> - \$30.00      COST AFTER SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> - \$40.00**  
**DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

**BOOTHS ARE 2 CAR SPACES  
(SIDE BY SIDE)**

**specify type of items you offer**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address)

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(city, state, zip)

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only  
  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Check \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: Tailgate Sale/LWV  
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104  
St. Louis MO 63144**

**Make checks payable to League of Women Voters  
of St. Louis or LWVSTL**

**Reservations must be received by September 1st**