



**IN LEAGUE REPORTER – JULY 2010**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS**  
**8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144**  
**314.961.6869**                      **www.lwvstl.org**

**From the President:**

Delegates are back from the League of Women Voter Convention, 90 Years of Making Democracy Work, A History of Change, A Future of Hope, in Atlanta that ended June 15<sup>th</sup>. At the national level we now have a budget, increased PMP, elected officers and directors, and program, including two new studies. It was a busy five days and whirlwind of activities from 7:30 in the morning until 10:00 at night. You will read much about it in the various articles in this In League from the St. Louis delegates, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Nancy Miller and Sydell Shayer.

I will report on the two highlights of the convention. Congressman John Lewis spoke on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the convention. He gave a speech reviewing some of his life experiences from raising chickens as a child, the beginnings of the civil rights movement and his work in Congress as well as the common public policy issues stating the difference the League makes in its support of issues, and his admonition to “continue to get in the way”. He was as rousing as you may have seen him on TV.

The other true highlight of the convention was a panel of the eight past presidents of the League, Lucy Benson, Ruth Hinefeld, Dot Ridings, Nancy Neuman, Susan Lederman, Becky Cain, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, and Kay Maxwell, each spoke of her memories of the League, good ones and embarrassing and the major accomplishments of her term. It was truly amazing to hear from them and to hear all that the League has done. I think we tend to forget and just go on to the next project. As I heard these women speak, I felt a great pride in them and in the League. The good news is that there will be a DVD of the panel so everyone will have the chance to see and hear these remarkable women.

Everyone who went to convention came back with a new energy and great ideas to share; be sure to come to the meeting July 13 to hear about and talk about what St. Louis could be doing.

*Linda C. McDaniel*

- 2009-2010 LWV ST. LOUIS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
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- Co-Pres. Linda C. McDaniel  
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  - Mary Long
  - Marty Ott
  - Sydell Shayer
  - Nancy Thompson
- Newsletter Ed. Nancy Miller

<b>CALENDAR</b>						
Mon.	July 5	<b>Office Closed for National Holiday</b>				
Tues.	July 13	5 – 7 pm	Call to Action Potluck	p. 5	Congregational Church Of Webster Groves	
Tues.	July 20	6:30 pm	Moderator Training	p. 6	League Office	
<b>SAVE THE DATES</b>						
Sat.	August 21	10 am	Equality Day Brunch	p. 7	Crown Plaza Hotel	
Thurs.	August 26		Equity Day Celebration	p. 8	Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center	

## ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOW-UP

Thanks to those who attended the League of Women Voters of St. Louis program on Haiti and the Peanut Butter Miracle - Mamba Mirak. It was an inspiring story and a special look inside about what is happening in Haiti, the issue of hunger and an answer for the children of Haiti and other parts of the world. Frank Popper and Lori Dowd are in the process of completing this documentary that they are committed to and to tell a story that is being missed by the media. Many people at the preview showing of their documentary asked if and how they might contribute to the help finish this valuable and important piece of history and this life saving story. You may send your contribution to: Midwest Center for Media Literacy, 1211 McKinley Ave, St. Louis, Missouri 63119, 314.368.1055, make a note on the check "Haiti Film".

If you have any questions call the League office at 314.961.6869.

*Linda C. McDaniel, President*

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### *National Convention: LWVUS is on the MOVE!!!*



When we arrived in *Hotlanta*, the energy was palpable. The expansive Marriott Marquis and the well-organized Atlanta and Georgia hosts welcomed us with warm southern hospitality. Our days and evenings were spent in caucuses, workshops, plenary sessions, eating (briefly) and sleeping (briefly). The overall mood combined pride in our past with excitement about our future.

#### REPORTS FROM CONVENTION

Over 600 hundred delegates came home exhilarated and sleep deprived from the League's four day National Convention in Atlanta, Ga. Activities started at 7:30 am and lasted until 10:00 pm or later. Everyone ate and slept League. So now that our St. Louis delegation is back, Agnes Garino, Nancy Miller, Kathleen Farrell, Sydell Shayer and Linda McDaniel, chair of the LWVUS Campaign Oversight Committee, expect us to share our enthusiasm for all things League.

Sydell made a motion on behalf of the LWVMO to delete the word “Honorary” from the LWVUS bylaws in describing 50 or more year League members. Long time League members believe that there should be no special category for League members and the convention agreed. The motion passed unanimously. Several other League members from Missouri spoke before the convention on a variety of issues.

Because of the long Convention agenda, statements before the convention body were limited to one minute. It is amazing how much information one can squeeze into a minute. We were able to choose two studies, three concurrences and a plethora of resolutions, an increase in the PMP and a budget with pro and cons on each within that time frame.

This convention was an example of civil discourse despite opposing views on issues. Mary Wilson, the outgoing national League president, who many of us met when she visited our League twice, set the tone. No matter what the subject, she never lost her cool. She made firm decisions but always gave the delegates the benefit of the doubt even after her decisions were challenged from the floor.

*Sydell Shayer, delegate*

## CONVENTION ADOPTS AMBITIOUS PROGRAM

The National Program for the 2010-2012 Biennium sets an ambitious agenda for the next two years. Two new studies were approved: The first, recommended by the National Board, would focus on the role of the federal government in education; and the second, which was nominated by LWV of Seattle, would study privatization, the policy of transferring government functions, services, and assets to the private sector. The scope of the study on the federal role in education is not yet determined, but will possibly consider funding, common standards and governance relationships among all levels of government. The privatization study has been done on a local level by the Seattle League, which reported that the study energized its present members and attracted new ones.

There was a great deal of discussion about both these adopted study items. Opposed delegates questioned the ability of the LWVUS to fund both studies and also questioned whether we should focus our efforts on the League’s core issues of elections, voters’ rights and representative government.

In addition to the two studies, there were three approved motions for concurrence. The first was a motion to adopt concurrence with the LWV Maryland and LWV Maine position on Marriage Equality to be added to the Equality of Opportunity position. This concurrence would mean that LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law and equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits of same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. The second, approved unanimously, was a motion to amend and update the current Arms Control position. The third was a concurrence to add a statement to the LWVUS position on selection of the president “to support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the College is accomplished.” The support of the National Popular Vote Compact concurrence motion produced a great deal of discussion at caucus meetings and in small gatherings as well as on the convention floor.

The convention discussion of these program items was passionate and thoughtful. We have our work cut out for us!

*Kathleen Farrell, delegate*

## A RESOLUTE BODY

The League convention approved six resolutions. All resolutions submitted to the delegates must meet

specific criteria as outlined in convention rules and procedures.

The convention approved the following resolutions urging the League to:

- 1) Support lifting the restrictions for Americans to travel to Cuba.
- 2) Support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources; in support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources.
- 3) Urge the U.S. Senate to change rules to limit the use of the filibuster
- 4) Add the principle of transparency to the SARA (Security, Accuracy, Recountability, and Accessibility) resolution on election systems.
- 5) Advocate strongly for bills that legislate for Improved Medicare for All.
- 6) Highlight the need for those responsible for the Gulf Oil spill to be held accountable and to hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up.

LWVUS sponsored workshops are a key component of the convention:

Topics ranged from “Informing Communities: Sustaining Democracy and Citizen Participation in the Digital Age”, to “A Treasure for Treasurers ”Tips for Managing Your League’s Finances”, to “Basic Practices to Building New Opportunities for Your League” for new presidents. Almost 20 separate workshops covered such topics as the League in the digital age, fundraising, voter-related issues, League leadership, redistricting and advocacy on federal issues, as the attendees learned from experts and shared ideas with other League leaders.

*Agnes Garino, delegate*

#### CAUCUSES and WORKSHOPS ENABLE SUCCESS

Beginning Friday afternoon and continuing through Tuesday morning, over thirty caucuses and nineteen workshops were presented to inform and train League members. Your delegates divided up the topics and times to cover as many of these as possible; already some of the material has been disseminated to committee chairs and board members. There were several themes running through these sessions. The overarching theme was, of course, educating the League and through the members educating the public. Sessions such as redistricting in 2011, voter registration drives, election observers and sustaining democracy were joined by more issue-centered sessions such as sentencing reform in the criminal justice system, sustainable water supplies, improved Medicare for all, and the current oil and mining practices.

Another theme was equipping the Leagues to reach out to their communities. We were energized by reports from specific Leagues about successful membership recruitment in Seattle, Atlanta, Houston and LA. Meeting with other big city leagues allowed us to share issues and strategies for the future. The city leagues share challenges such as widely spread membership across multiple city and in some cases county lines. Leagues also strive to incorporate younger members and the networking that brings them to the League. Several Leagues in sparsely populated states use Skype and conference calls to meet. We felt quite privileged to have both an office and Executive Director, as compared to many cities who relied totally on volunteers and their homes. Also included in the big cities discussion was efforts to reach out to the communities as the source for unbiased, well-documented information on matters of concern. As several of our speakers urged, these Leagues were doing what the League does best.

We return energized and equipped to share the vision for the League’s future.

**Please join us on July 13<sup>th</sup> to find out what’s happening and what we can make happen in St. Louis.**

*Nancy Miller, delegate*

Information about these issues can be found at LWVUS website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**HOT TOPICS**

**Radio Updates**

**“Continue to get in the way!”**

**Rep. John Lewis**

**“Fight the Good Fight”**

**Carrie Chapman**

***A Call to Action for the  
St. Louis League***

**July 13<sup>th</sup> 5pm - 7pm**

**POTLUCK—Bring a dish to share**

**First Congregational Church of  
Webster Groves.(UCC)**

**Lockwood & Elm, Webster Groves**

**Good Government Report Card**

**Legislators' Update**

## *OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE*

### **Everything You Wanted to Know About Being a Moderator, But Were Afraid to Ask**

You are invited to become part of the League's Candidate Forum tradition! On Tuesday, July 20 at 6:30 pm in the League office, we will conduct a Moderator Training session for all who are interested. A team of expert League Moderators will lead the charge as they share their Candidate Forum training tips and skills. This is a great opportunity for all League members who have been hesitant to volunteer as a Moderator. The training session will be instructive, fun, and will hopefully provide answers to all your questions. Please call or email me if you plan on attending so we can copy the training materials. Hope to see you on Tuesday, July 20!!!!

*Pat Jones*

314.842.9383

[bartolaccipj@gmail.com](mailto:bartolaccipj@gmail.com)

### **LOOKING FOR OBSERVER CORPS VOLUNTEERS!**

Part of the League's mission is to be well informed about what our government is doing. An effective way of doing that is to train and deploy volunteers to just attend and observe governmental bodies like school board meetings, Aldermanic meetings, city council meetings, etc. It might sound tedious, but that's what it takes to really know what's going on, and if you stick with it, you become an expert! We need to grow our own experts. Also, I hope to make part of the (September/October timeframe) training a class on knitting, so we can all put those hours to extra good use, and since I don't know how to knit, I need a volunteer to train new knitters. Please email Kathleen Kelly at [dkbkmk01@swbell.net](mailto:dkbkmk01@swbell.net) or call @ 314.533.3972. Thanks!

*Kathleen Kelly*

### **Have You Ever Thought About....??**

**With our Fall activities and the election approaching, volunteers in the these areas are needed:**

- **Public relations**
- **Speakers Bureau**
- **Graphics**
- **Web design/upkeep**

**If these activities look interesting, call Linda or Anna at the League office 314.961.6869**

## THE LEAGUE AT WORK

# THE LEAGUE'S 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TAILGATE

The St. Louis League's Annual "League in the Loop" Tailgate Sale is fast approaching. The sale takes place RAIN or SHINE - on Monday, Labor Day, September 6, 2010.

**YOU CAN MAKE THIS THE BEST SALE WE EVER HAD**

**VOLUNTEER TIME TO HELP WITH THE SALE AND/OR**

**DONATE ITEMS THAT YOU NO LONGER WANT OR NEED**

**WE NEED LOTS OF ITEMS FOR THE LEAGUE BOOTH.** Sale will run from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clean out your closets, basement, and garage and donate those unwanted items to the League. Want to be a vendor? We also need workers for set up, selling all our treasures, and clean up after the sale. Bring your items to the League office, or contact Barbara Elbrecht at 314.962.2821, or Denny and Elise Joerger at 314.725.4829.

We are also accepting books for this book sale this fall. You may bring them to the League office (314.961.6869) or Denny and Elise (314.725.4829) if you wish to drop them off at their home.

If you want to work the day of the sale please contact Barbara 314.962.2821 to volunteer.

*Barbara Elbrecht, Chair*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

The **Missouri Women's Network** is hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Equality Day Brunch, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women getting the vote. Presentations will include election and legislative issues, political action information, awards and women's equity. A Special Drawing for three nights and four days at a Cabin Estes Park, CO. (Tickets must be purchased and will be available the day of the event.). The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton, in the Crystal Ballroom. For further information call 314.831.5359; sbreeze@mindspring.com.

YWCA Metro St. Louis

presents

# A Women's Equity Day Celebration Rally

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

## Observing the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote

*Featuring*

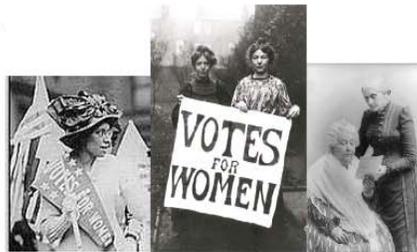
• **Anna Eleanor Roosevelt**

Granddaughter of Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady Champion of Human Rights

VP, Global Corporate Citizenship, The Boeing Company

• **East St. Louis Sr. High Jazz Quartet**

• **Voter Registration**



**All-White Attire and Hat**

Thursday, **Aug. 26**, 2010

4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center

2711 Locust St. (Midtown)

St. Louis, MO 63103



free of charge • free, convenient parking due to limited space,  
RSVP to either 314.531.1115,  
tsimmons@ywcastlouis.org  
or www.ywcastlouis.org



event in cooperation with the  
League of Women Voters of St. Louis

**Women's Right to Vote  
Pre-Celebration Rally Events**

Aug. 13: "I Am Woman" Poetry Slam  
7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Aug. 19: So Reel Racial Justice Speaker's  
Series presentation of suffrage movement  
movie, "Iron Jawed Angels"  
5:30 p.m.–8 p.m.

all events free of charge at the  
Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center  
Poetry Registration:  
ahunter@ywcastlouis.org  
Online: www.ywcastlouis.org

looking to our future as we celebrate the past....



## WOMEN RUNNING IN THE AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIMARIES

According to the Secretary of State's office, 79 women out of 551 individuals are running for state-wide positions in the August elections. This includes the US Senate and House of Representatives, State Auditor, Missouri State Senate and House of Representatives, and Circuit Judges. The percent of women running is 14%. According to information from the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, two women, or 33.3%, are currently serving in statewide offices. The 2009 national average of women in statewide offices is 23.2%. There are currently eight women out of thirty-four State Senators for 23.5%, with a national average of 21.7% of women in State Senates. Thirty-six women out of 163 State Representatives equals 22% of the Missouri House of Representatives and the national average is 24.5%.

These figures include from all political persuasions in state-wide elected office, including judges. According to the Center for American Women and Politics, in 2008 Missouri was tied for 33<sup>rd</sup> among the states for the percentage of women in the state legislature.

The Sue Shear Institute at UMSL , [www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/cand\\_elections/2010primary](http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/cand_elections/2010primary) is an excellent source for learning about the participation of women in politics. Especially in St. Louis.

## **COMMITTEES AT WORK**

### **HEALTH CARE**



### FEDERAL REFORM WILL HELP MISSOURI'S FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Health reform legislation just enacted by Congress will:

- Provide more than 32 million Americans access to affordable health coverage.
- Reduce the federal deficit by \$124 billion over 10 years.

In Missouri:

- 495,000 uninsured Missourians will gain health coverage.
- More than 1 million Missourians will access coverage through the health exchange.
- 516,000 residents qualify for premium tax credits to purchase health coverage.
- 961,000 seniors will receive free preventive services.
- 171,000 seniors will have their brand-name drug costs in the Medicare Part D "doughnut hole" halved. Within ten years the donut hole will be fully closed.
- 79,900 small businesses could receive a small business tax credit to offset premiums. Small businesses eligible for these tax credits employ more than 303,000 workers.
- 559,000 young adults through age 26 will have the right to keep their family's insurance.
- 180 Community Health Centers throughout MO will receive large increases in funding.
- More than 90,000 Missourians with pre-existing conditions will immediately gain access to affordable coverage.
- The Missouri economy will benefit from \$8.4 billion in new spending as a result of premium and cost sharing credits during the first five years of the Exchange.
- Employers and small businesses will have the ability to create more than 6,000 jobs as a result of stabilizing and reducing health care costs.

Reform Legislation Includes Significant Private Health Insurance Reforms to:

- Prohibit private insurance companies from turning down individuals because of pre-existing medical conditions or rescinding policies.
- Stop insurance companies from charging higher premiums because of pre-existing conditions, gender, or occupation
- Prohibit annual or lifetime limits on coverage. Protect consumers with annual out of pocket spending caps after which the insurance company must pay.
- Cap insurance company administrative overhead and profits, requiring insurers to use premiums to pay for medical care. Insurance companies must spend 85% of premiums on medical care in the group market and 80% in the individual market.
- Strengthen oversight of insurance premium rates and rate increases.
- Allow sales of insurance across state lines, as long as companies comply with minimum requirements created by states participating in compacts authorizing such sales.

If Missouri delays health reform implementation:

- 128,000 more Missourians will lose health insurance by 2019.
- 862,000 Missourians will lack health insurance by 2019
- The average Missourian's family insurance premium will increase by \$8,646 by 2019.
- Missouri's small businesses will pay \$3.3 billion more for health care premiums by 2018, stifling innovation and job growth.

Some common myths and facts:

The "individual mandate" means we'll all be forced to buy expensive insurance coverage.

The new law requires people to have health insurance coverage. And there are subsidies, tax credits and protections to make coverage affordable for middle income and low income families. Individuals and small businesses may get tax credits to help cover premiums costs. In addition, insurance companies will not be able to impose annual or lifetime benefits caps, and there will be rules that protect us from excessive out of pocket costs.

Missourians are currently spending large percentages of our incomes on health care. In fact, a 2008 study showed nearly one in four non-elderly Missourians—1.25 million Missourians—is in a family that will spend more than 10 percent of its pre-tax income on health care costs. Even more alarming, 341,000 Missourians are in families that will spend more than 25 percent of their pre-tax income on health care costs.

When fully implemented the penalty for those without qualifying coverage will be between \$695 and 2.5% of taxable income. Exceptions will be given for financial hardship and religious objections and to American Indians, people who have been uninsured for less than three months, those for whom the lowest cost health plan exceeds 8% of income, and people with income below the tax filing threshold.

I'm going to see additional taxes and the amount paid for my health coverage will now be taxed.

Tax related changes in the health reform law include:

- An increase in the Medicare Part A tax rate on wages on earnings over \$200,000 for individual taxpayers and \$250,000 for married couples and the expanded Medicare tax will include unearned income (such as investment income) for higher-income taxpayers.
- Health insurance providers will only be allowed to limit the deductibility of executive and employee compensation to \$500,000 per applicable individual.
- Some industries will be taxed, including pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, and indoor tanning services.
- The law creates a new tax on high cost health insurance plans. There is much misinformation about the tax on high cost health insurance benefits. The law imposes an excise tax on insurers (not on workers) issuing

employer-sponsored health plans with values that exceed \$10,200 for individual coverage and \$27,500 for family coverage. The tax is 40% applied to the amount of the plan that is above the thresholds. The entire plan value is not taxed. There are many exceptions for those in high risk employment and for retirees and others.

There will still be 23 million uninsured Americans, even after reform.

The CBO (Congressional Budget Office) predicted that 32 million uninsured Americans will gain coverage under the reform law, and that 23 million Americans will remain uninsured. The number of people who will remain uninsured includes some immigrants who will be prohibited from purchasing coverage in the Health Insurance Exchange, and individuals and families who do not purchase coverage or are exempted from the requirement that they purchase coverage.

**Missouri Jobs with Justice**, Amy Smoucha [amy@mojwj.org](mailto:amy@mojwj.org)

Rev. 4/27/2010

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will not meet during the summer months. Our next regular meeting will be on September 10.

*Judith Smart, Chair*

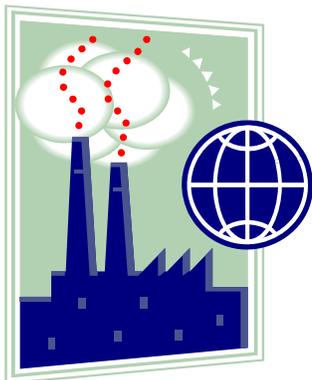


## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will not meet during the summer months.

*Dixie Buford, Chair*

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE



Program is the League's "Reason for Being," the basis for both education and action efforts. It includes both adopted positions, statements of where the League stands on issues of public policy that are used for action, and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

EQ Program Committee activities focuses on Environmental Quality Issues, studying existing conditions, current issues, and opportunities for improvement, always guided by the League's local, state, and national positions. Committee work often involves monitoring the meetings and activities of key government individuals or organizations. Other committee work may involve study of recent reports, actions, or public statements.

Using the Transit position, the League of Women Voters of St Louis supported the Proposition A on the April 2010 Ballot. Members worked hard with many other organizations and the Proposition Passed!

The 2010 – 2011 focus of the Environmental Quality Committee will be sustainable living. The EQ Committee will be

presenting information each month in the *In League Reporter*. We would like to hear your suggestions and questions you might have as the year progresses. Let's see what we can all do to reduce our carbon footprint!

What is your favorite EQ issue? Are you active with any other organizations on EQ issues? If so please keep the LWV STL EQ committee informed about your work, and serve as a resource for the Committee.

Join the EQ Committee. For additional information, contact Mickey Croyle at 314.395.7876.

*Mickey Croyle, Chair*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

New members:

Gwen Moore 7114 Willow Tree Lane St. Louis MO 63130-1818	Gay Tompkins 1506 Lingonberry Court High Ridge MO 63049-1418	Carolyn Taylor 920 Shandel Dr. St. Louis MO 63132-5018
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Erika Fellingner 1289 Weatherby Dr. St. Louis MO 633146-5456	Doris Harrington 715 Imse Dr. St. Louis MO 63119-4975
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Address Changes:

Robert Posen 7920 Clayton Rd. #223 St. Louis MO 63117-1327	Norma Jean Vavra 2033 Butterfly Ln. Apt. 119 Naperville IL 60563-4181
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We are saddened to inform you of three deaths:

Jean Dean, member of the League since 1949 died on June 14. Jean was a former president of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, a member of many more committees, and volunteer extraordinaire. She was also cheerful and willing to help in any capacity at a moment's notice. She will be missed.

Coy Fitch, husband of Rachel Farr Fitch passed away on May 27. Dr. Fitch, a past League member, was an endocrinologist and internal medicine chair at St. Louis University Hospital, honored for his commitment to excellence in medical care.

Bob Green, husband of Joan Green, passed away on June 14. Joan was a St. Louis League member for many years and presently lives in Springfield IL.

## **MEMORIALS**

In memory of Coy Fitch to LWV St. Louis from Julie Behrens.

In memory of Coy Fitch to LWV Information Service from Carol Portman.



## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

Many thanks go to our cheerful and busy volunteers this month time. They helped with the MO Voter, the Metro News, the In League Reporter and the Voter Guides. Those participating were Barb Behiter, Sue Dellbringge, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Eve Golden, Mickey Hall, Katharine Kilpatric, Marty Ott, Mary Beth Reynolds, Judith Smart and Enid Tennebaum.

*Julie Behrens, Staff*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Even though it is summer it is a busy time at the League office. Voter guide preparation is underway for the August Primary and there are always many office tasks that need to be completed. Do you have time to answer the phones or assist with mailings or various other necessary tasks? Please contact the office and let Anna or Julie know what you would be willing to do. And you can come and see our new look – new paint and new carpeting.

*Julie Behrens, Staff*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS**

As our Voters Guide is once again underway; I am reminded of the critical role we play in providing balanced coverage of candidates and issues. Coverage determinations based on “most interesting or the most likely winners” can leave voters without the information they need to make a selection that best fits their political views. Last week I spoke with a woman who wasn’t even aware of the Constitution party for example.

The League makes the needs of the voters its priority. Every voter is important and balance means each candidate and issue is given equal coverage. This focus on balance and inclusion is appreciated by both the individual voters and the smaller political parties. Our balance sets us apart.

*Anna Mennerick*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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SAINT LOUIS, MO 63144

IN LEAGUE REPORTER

