

Metro News

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LWVIS REPORT to the COMMUNITY for 2008



Thanks to many dedicated League members day after day, year after year, since 1919, the League of Women Voters in St. Louis has provided vital voter education to the public.

This is a report of our activities in the 2008 presidential election year. For more information visit our website: www.lwvstl.org or call the League office: 314-961-6869

Phenomenal Election Year: League's Information Service **VOTER REGISTRATION**

In preparation for the Presidential Primary in February 2008 and the Presidential Election in November 2008 LWV St. Louis members gave the voting registration oath, changed addresses or changed names 2,291 times, including at 45 naturalization ceremonies, registering 1,666 new citizens. Citizens were registered at 24 sites. In addition to registering we provided much election-related information.

LWV registrars: **Joan Botwinick, Judith Smart, Esther and James Clark; Lori Calcaterra, Cindy Mitchell, Marjorie Courtney, Joe Kleeman,** Micki Hoffman, Jean Srenco, **Mary Beth Reynolds, Pam Todorovich, K Wentzien,** Lois Bliss, Evelyn Buretta, **Susan Fluegel, Carol Teig,** Arlene Nickels, **Billie Teneau, Stefany Brot,** Jill Schmidt, Mary Parker. Names in bold face are regular registrars at the naturalization ceremonies.

Carol Portman, Voter Registration chair

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The 2008 presidential election campaign season meant a large increase in activity for the Speakers Bureau. For calendar 2008, the League received 49 speaker requests. Of those, 34 occurred in September, October, and even November (the Sunday before the election).

Our volunteer speakers reached well over 1500 voters plus two radio appearances that reached area listeners. The requests came from schools, senior groups, church and synagogue groups, literacy classes, young adult groups, residency apartments, women's groups, etc.

Topics requested included the importance of voting, voter registration, absentee voting, the electoral college, ballot issues, our online voters guide: smartvoter.org, and more.

Many thanks go to our LWV speakers: Joan Abrams, Lois Bliss, Pearlina Boyd, Doris Buzzell, Mary K. Brown, Norma Jean Downey, Kathleen Farrell, Kathleen Kelly, Kathy Maret, Nancy Miller, Arlene Nickels, Carol Portman, Jill Schmidt, Billie Teneau, Lynn Tiede, Carol Teig, Patti Walley, and Ida West.

Their speeches help us toward our goal of more informed voters.

Marjorie Courtney, Speakers Bureau chair

FROM THE CO - PRESIDENT

I guess this could be called the passing of the baton as Doris Buzzell finished her term as president and I begin mine along with co-president Becky Clausen. We feel privileged to be elected to serve you and hope we can fill Doris's shoes. It will not be easy.

Let me tell you a little about myself. Many years ago, as many stories begin, I was in high school but also doing political party precinct work and a neighbor suggested I might be interested in the League, so she took me to a luncheon and that is when it all began. I thought the idea of people studying issues, answering the same set of questions and coming up with a consensus or position was really neat, I guess today's kids would say awesome. Due to the bylaws I did not join the League for several years. But I did join and was a member in Poughkeepsie, NY, and Boulder, CO, and then settled down in St. Louis.

After attending meetings for several months, like many I was hooked. That led me to many things but first of all meeting many wonderful, engaging women from whom I have learned so much. I have served as local League program committee member also chair, local study chair, North County League president, state board member, vice president and later LWVMO president, LWVUS board member then First Vice President. I am especially proud of that since Edna Gellhorn from Missouri served as the first First Vice President of the national organization in 1920.

A couple of things stand out for me that as a League member I was able to be a part of: the North County League supported the desegregation of the Ferguson-Florissant and Berkeley school districts. It was controversial, but successful.

The other major success was when the League filed a lawsuit asking the court to redistrict the state. Missouri had lost a congressional seat and the legislature did not pass a bill to redraw districts so the state faced at large elections. The court agreed to draw the districts and in the end both political parties were generally satisfied with the result. I also have been very involved in campaign finance reform. I have always found the League enjoyable, educational, frustrating, but mostly special and rewarding. I hope you also find the League to be these things. I look forward to meeting all of you and working with you so that the League can serve and better our community.

Linda McDaniel, Co-President

VOLUNTEERS – THANK YOU!

The LWVIS Voter Hotline is answered Monday-Friday from 9:30-3:30. Volunteers are there during election seasons handling citizen inquiries -- more than 3,300 Information Service calls. Not surprisingly, the busiest month by far in 2008 was October with 1,394 calls.

There could not be a League of Women Voters without our volunteers. This year two devoted office volunteers logged more than 100 hours each, Betty Ann Gilbert (113 hrs) and Mickey Hall (153). The following answered the phones, folded publications and sealed envelopes to service local voters

2008-2009 Volunteers, with a humble request for additions: Brenda Banjak, Barbara Behiter, Nancy Bowser, Mary Brown, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney, Clyde Creel, Verna Creel, Sue Dellbringge, Susan Fluegel, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Pat Jones, Kathy Maret, Herb Nickels, Cindy Mitchell, Mary Parker, Mary Beth Reynolds, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, Jean Srenco, and Patti Walley.

If you have some time to share from an hour to a day, we welcome your contribution and value the gift of your time. Whether you have skills to share or are willing to learn new ones, we can find a project for you at the League office.

*Anna Mennerick
Joint Office Executive Director*

DISTRIBUTION of Voters Guides – 2008

The League published Voters Guides for both the August Primary and the November General Election

AUGUST PRIMARY – 3,500 GUIDES

22 Schnucks Stores 550

**LIBRARIES - Missouri
Metropolitan City & County
2,375**

League Office 575

NOVEMBER ELECTION – 5,000 GUIDES

40 Schnucks Stores 2,000

**LIBRARIES - Missouri
Metropolitan City and
County 2,275**

League Office 725

**All copies printed were
distributed.**

CANDIDATE FORUMS

In 2008, League volunteers conducted some 25 candidate forums for school board, city government, and congressional candidates.

League members served as moderators, including conducting Q & As and timing forums, in the League's efforts to give voters person-to-person opportunities for contacts with candidates.

*Helen Louise Herndon,
Candidate Forum Chair*

METRO NEWS

The Metro News is published quarterly in the League office. This publication is sent to League members, organizations, and members of the community. The Metro News' focus is educational and voter information activities of the League. Voters Guide information is included before each election.

Agnes Garino, Editor

THEATER PARTY

The 21st annual theater party to support the League of Women Voters Information Service (LWVIS), early this spring at The Centene Center of the Arts in Grand Center, was another success.

The 2009 Theater Party featured Prison Performing Arts, with a cast of former prisoners performing works of Shakespeare and original compositions, under the direction of Agnes Wilcox. Prison Performing Arts fosters individual and social change by providing current and former in-mates opportunities to participate in the performing arts as artists, students and audience members. The performance was followed by an elegant reception. The event received rave reviews.

The Theater Party, which annually provides a major source of the income for the Information Service, netted \$7,800. This event gave added support for **"Smart Voter"**, an interactive nonpartisan website and election services to the citizens in the greater St. Louis community.

Sydell Shayer, Chair

*Committee: Janice Dahl and Eve Golden,
with assistance from Larry, Nancy and Hannah Shayer*

Special thanks to all the members and others who made this event happen.

2009 Theater Party Sponsors

Anonymous	Mary Long
Ann Bader	Betty & Ken Maag
Lois Bliss	Charles Manley
Terry & Gordon Bloomberg	& Kimberley Perry
Joan Botwinick	Renee & Bruce Michelson
Mary K. Brown	Cindy and Tom Mitchell
Mary Ellen Brucker	Jeanne Morrel-Franklin
Becky Clausen	Julia K Muller & Earl
Marjorie Courtney	Shreckengast
Milly Cohn	Tom Newcomb
Janice & Bill Dahl	Joann & Miles Ordinachev
Sue Dellbringge	Mary Beth Reynolds
Norma Jean Downey	Pat Rich
Kay Dusenbery	Jill & Mark Schupp
Robert & Naomi Edmonds	Sydell & Larry Shayer
Agnes & Dave Garino	Ruth & Alvin Siteman
Eleanor Glovinsky	Marion Stuvland
Eve & Jeffry Golden	Jay and Peggy Umansky
Pat Gray	Patrick & Vicky Witte
Gail & Rik Hafer	K & Paul Wentzien
Andrea Jackson	
Suzanne Kirkpatrick	
Jeanne Kirkton	
Yvonne & Joseph Logan	

August 4, 2009 SPECIAL ELECTION simple majority

- City of Berkeley - Prop. A 1/2 % sales tax rate for economic development.
- City of University City - Prop S 1/4% sales tax

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS IN HONOR OF

Norma Jean Downey
by Sydell Shayer

Doris Buzzell
by Jeanne Morrel-Franklin

IN MEMORIAM

Georgia Mertens
by Doris Buzzell
Jeanne Morrel-Franklin
Sydell Shayer
Carole Stevens
by Julie Behrens
Agnes Garino
Mickey and Julian Hall
Sydell Shayer

Tributes & memorials can be sent to the League office: LWV 8706 Manchester Rd. Ste. 104, St. Louis MO 63144.

Please include your name, the person to be notified with address and occasion. Contributions to LWVIS are

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EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

The League offers several publications to the public free or at a nominal cost. The most widely distributed publication is *Register and Vote* over 1,500 in 2008. This pamphlet is available to the public at the League office, all voter registration drives, candidate forums, speaker presentations, and League meetings.

Other publications available are *How to Organize a Candidate Forum*, *Communicating Your Legislative Positions*, *Simplified Parliamentary Procedure*, *How to Judge a Candidate*, *How to Watch a Debate*, *Mr. Madison's Constitution*, *Missouri's Legislature*, and *the Missouri Voters' Handbook*.

Julie Behrens, Joint Office Staff

LWV Information Service Contributors

MAJOR Foundation

Roblee Foundation \$10,000

PLATINUM (\$2,000 - \$3500)

LWVMO EDUCATION FUND

Boeing Employees Community
Fund of St. Louis

Individuals (\$2,000 & over)

Agnes & Dave Garino

GOLD (\$1,000 - \$2,000)

Janice Dahl

SILVER (\$301 - \$1,000)

Lois W. Bliss

BRONZE (\$150- \$300)

Elise Joerger

Mary Parker

Mary Ellen Brucker

Doris Buzzell

Deborah Waite Howard

Jeanne D. Morrel-Franklin

Frederick & Bruce Tuttle

Anonymous

Marjorie S. Courtney

Mildred Cohn

Robert Elgin

Patricia Rich

Development Committee Janice Dahl, Chair

Brenda Banjak, Barbara Elbrecht, Agnes Garino, Elise Joerger, Sheila Kalman, Linda McDaniel, Sydell Shayer, Patti Walley, K Wentzien



\$100 Supporters

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VOTER INFORMATION

"Smart Voter" WEBSITE was used to promote the primary in August 2008 and general election in November 2008 and had 347,032 page views in the month before the presidential election. Like many other League programs, this wonderful resource for voters, relies on the time and commitment of our volunteers.

Mickey Croyle has provided hours of data entry to set up the information voters want to find. Many others have written letters, followed up with candidates, gently edited and compiled candidate responses so they could be used in the online-Voter Guide.

The League's website also was also a resource for voters
www.lwvstl.org statistics: 2008

of requests for pages Jan. - Dec. -- over 49,000

busiest months: August 5,435; Nov. 6,692; Oct. 9,387

County Election Board Report: 2008 ELECTIONS

St. Louis County Election Board recently compiled some fascinating 2008 election statistics which we're pleased to share with you.

Fascinating Statistics

November 2008 Election

Registered voters: 716,060

Votes cast: 562,965 (78.62%)

Absentee Ballots counted: 72,544

Presidential Race difference Missouri (won by McCain): 3,903

Presidential Race difference St. Louis County (won by Obama): 111,418

Governor: more than 15,000 voters voted for President, but did not vote in the governor's race

Closest Race: 1st State Senate: 70-vote difference of 88,362 votes cast

For the complete report

**[www.co.st.louis.mo/ELECTIONS:](http://www.co.st.louis.mo/ELECTIONS)
and click on 2008 Biennial Report**

THANK YOU.....

The League's IS efforts to help citizens become more informed voters are facilitated with the assistance of both the St. Louis City and County Board of Elections Commissioners' staff. Special Thank You to the Election Boards and their excellent staffs.