



METRO NEWS

Spring 2011

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LWVIS

Report to the Community

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 report focuses on our activities in the 2010 election year. For more information visit our website: www.lwvstl.org or call the League office: 314 961-6869

VOTERS GUIDE PROJECT

*Bringing Voter Information to Six Counties and St. Louis City
One Candidate at a Time!*

The St. Louis League produced FOUR Voters' Guides in the recent one-year election cycle in collaboration with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. These Guides ranged in size from the March 2011 St. Louis City primary of fewer than 30 candidates to the whopping April 2011 36-page guide that covered more than 900 candidates and 56 ballot initiatives and propositions. The November 2010 Guide that covered state-wide elections and Missouri Senate and House candidates was so popular that we ran out of the 10,000 copies we had to distribute. And this was after approximately 300,000 Post-Dispatch readers got their Guides in their newspapers. More than 40 League members contacted candidates, entered information into the Post's database, researched ballot initiatives, checked information for accuracy, edited and proofread, and carried the many bundles of Guides to libraries, YMCAs, coffee shops, union halls, senior centers and recreation buildings, churches, and even a beauty shop or two!

Countless voters and candidates thanked us for this invaluable community service and our visibility has risen due to the Guide. I thank all the committed volunteers who worked on this project and Anna and Julie who provided invaluable staff support. Look forward to having a bit of a break until the April 2012 Guide work begins early in 2012.

Kathleen Farrell, Voters Guide Coordinator

SERVING VOTERS

VOTERS GUIDES: covering over 1,500 candidates and dozens of issues

VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS: 40+

CANDIDATES' FORUMS: 20+

SPEAKERS BUREAU - 7 civic/education groups

METRO NEWS: including local elections voters guides

WEBSITE: www.lwvstl.org
and much more!

VOTER REGISTRATION

In 2010 LWVIS was present at 39 Naturalization Ceremonies to register 1,331 new American citizens to vote. Most of the ceremonies are held at the Thomas Eagleton Courthouse in downtown St. Louis; special naturalization ceremonies were held at the Old Courthouse, Parkway South High School, Harris-Stowe State University, and the U. S. Grant Historical Site. The new citizens come from all over Missouri. We register approximately 50% of the new citizens.

LWVIS tries to accommodate all requests for voter registration. The LWV sign was visible at Harrah's Casino, St. Louis Public Schools Open House, YWCA/LWV 90th celebration of the 19th amendment, Festival of Nations, Mehlville School District, Kirkwood School District, Nerinx Hall, and Operation Youth Build. The latter was a class in learning the importance of voting and registering the students to vote. We provide voter information, in addition to taking registrations. (cont. on p.4)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The St. Louis League had its hands full delivering voter service to our region this last year. Because of our collaboration with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, more than 1 million readers received our guides for the June, August and November 2010, as well as the March and April 2011 elections.

As we worked with candidates, researched ballot initiatives and propositions, and answered voters' myriad questions about complicated ballot initiatives and local state and national issues, we realized how important this work is.

Because of fewer local media resources allocated to election coverage, our accurate, non-partisan information is needed to educate voters.

Our candidate forums drew record attendances. Running them, particularly for high-profile congressional races or hotly contested mayoral elections, has become more complicated and requires lengthy negotiations with campaign staff, media, and co-sponsors. This takes more volunteer time and financial resources.

Our voter registration team enrolled more than 1,300 new citizens into our democratic process. It takes time and resources to attend each and every naturalization ceremony.

But this is what the League is all about. This year will bring new challenges as voters are asked to make important decisions about their local communities and the State of Missouri. We will be there to lend our voice and our expertise. We pledge to work hard to uphold the tradition of the League and help make democracy work in our communities.

We are honored to have been elected co-presidents for the next two years.

Kathleen Farrell • Linda C. McDaniel
Co-Presidents LWV St. Louis

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CANDIDATE FORUMS: DEMOCRACY AT WORK

During the summer and fall months, the League coordinated six Candidate Forums before the November 2010 general election: two U.S. House 3rd District Forums - one St. Louis and one Jefferson County, St. Louis County Executive, MO House District 64, MO House District 94, U.S. House 2nd District

The League scheduled ALL aspects of the forums, including contacting the candidates, finding appropriate locations, contacting security, coordinating sound systems, visiting the sites, talking to the press, coordinating volunteers, dealing with candidates' staff, and getting the candidates to agree on a date!

Popularity of the Forums:

The 3rd District Forums drew large crowds; more than 650 people attended the two forums. The St. Louis County Executive Forum attracted a standing-room-only crowd of 250 people. League volunteers collected and sorted hundreds of cards.

Candidate Forums would not be possible without the dedication of our League volunteers. Thank you to all who helped make the Fall 2010 Forums a success: Kathleen Farrell, Julian Long, Doris Buzzell, Dixie Buford, Mary and Charlie Long, Pat Soraghan, Linda McDaniel, Cindy and Tom Mitchell, Rea Kleeman, Janice and Bill Dahl, Judith Smart, Katharine Kilpatrick, Marcia Clark, Mary Beth Reynolds, Esther and Jim Clark, Nancy Miller, Nancy Billingham, Leah Giessing, Agnes Garino, Becky Clausen, Susan Fluegel, Lolly Wehrli, Patti Walley, Marjorie Courtney, Marge Wilson, Janis Pupillo, Marietta Schwalbe, and Marty Ott.

A sure sign of Spring 2011 was the April 5 election and the requests for League-moderated Candidate Forums. We coordinated the following 14 Forums: City Earnings Tax • Parkway School Board • Bridgeton Mayoral and City Council • Hazelwood School Board • Kirkwood School Board • Rockwood School Board • Florissant Mayoral • St. Louis County Assessor • Ritenour School Board • Creve Coeur City Council • Wildwood City Council • Mehlville Fire Protection District • Brentwood School Board • Webster Groves School Board.

The City Earnings Tax Forum drew a large crowd of more than 100 people who submitted questions to panelists. A standing-room-only crowd of 80 people attended the Bridgeton Forum. The Florissant Mayoral Forum was televised by the local government channel, with 400 people in attendance. Approximately 75 people attended the Brentwood Forum.

Our fantastic Spring 2011 Candidate Forum volunteers:

Kathleen Farrell, Doris Buzzell, Pam Todorovich, Kathleen Kelly, Linda McDaniel, Yvonne Blair, Dixie Buford, Ida West, Alfreda Brown, Mary Long, Judith Smart, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marty Ott, Nancy Billingham, K Wentzien, Nancy Miller, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Marjorie Courtney, Sydell Shayer, Brenda Banjak, Rea Kleeman, Debby Howard, Lois Bliss, Karen Dahman, Lolly Wehrli, Pat Soraghan, Enid Tennenbaum, Nancy Thompson, Sue Dellbringge, and Barbara Elbrecht.

One of the best ways for voters to learn about people seeking election is to hear candidates speak and answer questions in a public forum. Our Candidate Forums are respected as models of civil, nonpartisan, issues-based conversations, and we couldn't provide this service without the hard work of our volunteers. Thank you to all who have volunteered in the past, and please consider volunteering for the next election season: 2012 will be here before you know it!

**Pat Jones, Candidate Forum
Coordinator**

WEBSITE: lwwstl.org

League Easy Web, a product of the League of Women Voters of California, continues to provide our web hosting. Information on Candidate Forums and Voters Guides are online. Other information posted includes the Register and Vote Brochure, monthly *In League Reporter* and quarterly *Metro News* (posted in PDF format), and Calendar of Events. All League members are encouraged to submit past studies, committee reports and other materials to be available on the website under League Publications and Research.

Our website traffic has increased 66% over last year. Most visitors who found us through another site found us through Google. If anyone is interested in the full report, please contact the office. Mickey Croyle continues to serve as the faithful webmaster. Anyone interested in adding website skills should contact the League office: 961-6869 or lwwstl.org

OFFICE REPORT

This past year has been extremely busy. Completing Voters Guides for:

- August 2010 election 36 volunteers logged 250 hours.
- November 2010 election 43 volunteers logged 340 hours.
- March 2011 election 6 volunteers logged 40 hours.
- April 2011 election 45 volunteers logged 360 hours.

Our volunteers and staff answered almost 2,400 voter/election calls, the most in October, more than 500.

Huge thank you to the following: Brenda Banjak, Barb Behiter, Yvonne Blair, Lois Bliss, Joan Botwinick, Nancy Bowser, Alfreda Brown, Mary K. Brown, Dixie Buford, Doris Buzzell, Lori Calcaterra, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney Verna Creel, Clyde Creel, Mickey Croyle, Sue Dellbringge, Barbara Elbrecht, Joan Esserman, Gloria Ewing, Janet Fales, Kathleen Farrell, Susan Fluegel, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Eve Golden, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Deborah Howard, Elise Joerger, Denny Joerger, Pat Jones, Kathleen Kelly, Katharine Kilpatric, Mary Long, Julian Long, Linda McDaniel, Tom Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Carolyn Nolan, Marty Ott, Mary Parker, Carol Portman, Janis Pupillo, Louise Reeves, Mary Beth Reynolds, Julia Sewall, Sydell Shayer, Judith Smart, Jean Srenco, Enid Tennebaum, Tommy Theiss, Nancy Thompson, Patti Walley, Carol Washburne, Lolly Wehrli, K Wentzien and Ida West who assisted with various office tasks and the voter guides.

STAFF REPORT

The Joint Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30-3:30. Email has become a much larger part of our daily communication with the public and members.

For the second year in a row, Esther Clark has served the office by crafting and maintaining a Master Database and Mailing List for our use, as well as other important membership work. We are grateful to Esther for both her service and perseverance.

We welcome Barbara Harris, our new volunteer coordinator.

*Julie Behrens/Bookkeeper and Anna Mennerick/
Executive Director*

CIVILITY WORKSHOPS

Following a discussion concerning the need for civility in public discourse at the LWWUS convention in June 2010 and discussion at our Hot Topics roundtable in July, a committee was formed to begin a Civility Project for the LWWSTL. After months of planning and preparation, Session I of the CIVILITY WORKSHOPS was held on February 5th at the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. C.J. Larkin, a professor in the Mediation Law Department at Washington University School of Law, did an excellent job serving as moderator and trainer for our Workshops, entitled "How to Have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times". Session II took place on February 26th. A total of 25 participants attended.

Committee members Katharine Kilpatric, Lolly Wehrli, Cindy Mitchell, Pat Soraghan, Janis Pupillo, and Events Chair Eve Golden worked tirelessly to make this project a success! Thanks to Kara White for her assistance and to LWWIS President Linda McDaniel for overseeing the sessions. The committee is still in the process of evaluating the project before making plans for the future.

Nancy Miller, Project Chair

SPEAKERS BUREAU

League members are requested to speak on a variety of subjects and locations each year. In 2010 Leaguers spoke to Operation Excel Youth Build, part of St. Louis Housing Authority, home-schooled students at the Old Courthouse during Constitution Day, to groups of students at Sanford-Brown College in Fenton on Constitution Day, to students at St. Louis Community College Florissant Valley regarding ballot issues on the November ballot, to AARP Chapter 2946 in South County on the November election, a presentation about the League from the Suffragist movement to current League positions, and to a Kiwanis Club regarding Arms Control.

Thank you to our speakers: Mary K. Brown, Doris Buzzell, Joan Esserman, Betty & Ken Maag, Linda McDaniel, Carol Portman and Sydell Shayer.

METRO NEWS

The Metro News is published quarterly by the LWWIS. This publication is sent to League members, organizations, and members of the community. The *Metro News* is available by mail, email and on the St. Louis League's website. The Metro News' focus is educational and voter information activities of the League. Voter Guide information is included before each election.

Agnes Garino, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FUNDING FOR THE LWWIS July 1, 2010-April 30, 2011

The League Information Service raised funds in a number of ways this year: The Theatre Party, fundraising letter, Winter Wonderland, and Schnucks Electronic Script. This includes contributions from League members. Thank you to all LWWIS financial supporters.

Major contributors

Agnes & Dave Garino

Jane Graham

Margaret Barrow, Marj Courtney, Sue Barker Dellbringge, Michael Hogan, Susan Lammert, Marjorie McDermott, and Raleigh & Joanne Wilson

Special thanks to Patti Walley and Sydell Shayer who worked on the Theatre Party (see *Winter Metro News* for Party report), and all those who contributed to our efforts.

Barbara Elbrecht coordinated the Winter Wonderland evening, with her most appreciated volunteers:

Marj Courtney, Elise and Denny Joerger, Billie Teneau, Alan Ranford, Mary Long, Pat Jones, Kathleen Farrell, Doris Buzzell, Susan Fluegel and Catherine Stenger.

Investment Advisory Committee Report

The Investment Advisory Committee is an off-board group consisting of three at-large members appointed by the President, and the current President, Treasurer, Development Chair, and Office Manager.

Part of this past year's task was developing an "Investment Policy Statement for Receiving Contributions", which has been approved by the Board.

This committee has also agreed to serve as a Budget Advisory Committee as well as an Investment Advisor. Any recommendations made by this group are subject to approval of the Board of Directors elected by the membership.

Serving on the committee were: Linda McDaniel, Co-President; Cindy Mitchell, Treasurer; Kathleen Farrell, Development Director; and Anna Mennerick, Joint Office Executive Director. Off-board members are Pat Esserman, Bob Franklin, & K Wentzien, Committee Chair.

(cont. from p. 1)

Voter registration volunteers: Joan Botwinick, Stefany Brot, Evelyn Buretta, Lori Calcaterra, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Marj Courtney, Pam DeVoe, Susan Fluegel, Joe Kleeman, Cindy Mitchell, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Judith Smart, Carol Teig, Billie Teneau, and K Wentzien.

Carol Portman,
Voter Registration Chair