



**IN LEAGUE REPORTER - November 2009**  
**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:**

Consensus, what's it all about?

I was first introduced to League by a neighbor when I was in high school. (No fair counting back to try and figure out how old I am.) The things that impressed me so much about the League were the membership component and its way of advocacy. Each issue was chosen by the entire membership, questions were studied at local meetings, opinions were put together to come up with a position, all in a narrow time frame. That is what we call consensus and what we still do today. In February the St. Louis League will be discussing and coming up with a local consensus for a statewide study - Early Voting. Other Leagues in the state will be doing the same thing, meeting together and answering the same questions.

This study was adopted last May by the membership at state convention and was put on a quick timeline so that we might be able to address the issue at the 2010 Missouri Legislative Session. It is important to remember that any issue the League decides to study is not predisposed to a position one way or the other. Also, the League may not come up with consensus (member agreement) on an issue. The questions and resulting positions, if they develop, are meant to be broad and not focused on one piece of legislation.

Many people ask if we raise and count hands as we discuss the questions. We don't do that, we want to come to a general agreement of more than half of the participants. We always repeat back to the group what opinion we hear and ask if that is sense of the group. Reports always include minority opinions that may be expressed. Reports of all the units are put together into one response from the St. Louis League board and then sent to the MO League board which reviews all the local League reports. Then we have a consensus and position on the issue – or not if consensus is not reached.

Committees across the state and in St. Louis have been working hard to develop background materials and questions. Watch for the articles in the In League. I urge you to attend the units in February and join this essential component of the League. Democracy/ the League are a participatory sport.

*Linda C. McDaniel*

**2009-2010 LWV ST. LOUIS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Marty Rulo
- Sydell Shayer

**Newsletter Ed.** Nancy Miller

**CALENDAR**

Tues.	Nov.	3	6am-7pm	Election Day		
Sat.	Nov.	7	9 am	Environmental Quality Discuss.	Pg. 6	League Office
Tues.	Nov.	10	5:30pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	Pg. 8	League Office
	Nov.	10-14		Unit Meetings	Pg. 7-9	
Fri.	Nov.	13	10 am	International Relations Comm.	Pg. 6	St Louis Cnty Lib. Hdqtrs
Sat.	Nov.	14	8:30-3:30	LWVMO Fall Conference		Sedalia, MO
Sat.	Nov.	21	9:30 am	Education Committee	Pg. 8	League Office
Wed.	Nov.	18	6pm	Pizza & Politics Series	Pg. 3	Sunnen Lounge, WebsterU
	Nov.	26&27		Office Closed - Thanksgiving		

## *Nostalgia - - Looking Back 21 years*

Twenty-one years ago the League bought out a Black Rep production of “Black Nativity” for our first theater party. The theater was in an old church on St. Louis Ave. that held little more than 100 people. We agreed to allow the few patrons who had season tickets to attend on the day of our performance.

A few days before the theater party, the electricity in the theater went out and could not be repaired in time. Fortunately, the Black Rep was able to move the entire run of the production to COCA whose theater had seats for over 300. The Black Rep and the League took advantage of this opportunity and filled the house.

This, our first theater party, had the largest attendance of any we have had, although it was not the most financially successful. To this day, I think it was the best performance of any we have had.

The elegant reception after the performance was in the beautiful dance space on the first floor.

For those who missed it, or for those who would like to see it again, I am pleased to let you know that the Black Rep will present “Black Nativity” by Langston Hughes from December 2 to 27 at the Grandel Theater in Grand Center. It is a gospel celebration of extraordinary exuberance. It will be directed by Ron Himes, the artistic director who directed our performance twenty-one years ago. All tickets for this exclusive presentation are \$33.00. Discount tickets are available for groups of twelve or more. Call the box office at 314-534-3810. I know that you will be glad you did.

*Sydell Shayer, Chair of the very first LWVIS theater party*

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Join the Environmental Quality Committee for a discussion with  
Crystal Lovett-Tibbs*

**Legislative Liaison for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources**

**Saturday, November 7, 2009**

**9:00 a.m.**

**League Office, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104**

The Department of Natural Resources has a variety of responsibilities that impact our environment and our communities. Learn more about the department and about the legislative priorities for the upcoming 2010 session of the Missouri General Assembly.



Environmental Side of  
Health Care: See Page 6

# PIZZA AND POLITICS SERIES



Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, FOCUS St. Louis, and Holden Public Policy Center at Webster University.

Join Us at 6 pm in the Sunnen Lounge, University Center, Webster University

November Presentation:

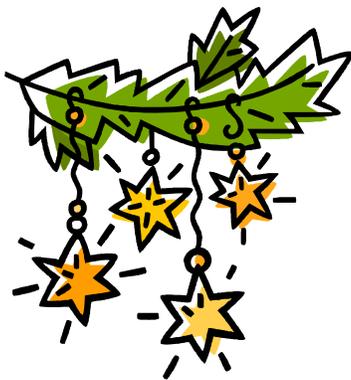
**The Term Limit Debate: Representative Chris Kelly and Ed Martin, Wed., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Upcoming Presentation:

**The Honorable Judge Richard Teitelman, Missouri Supreme Court, Wed., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, call *Nancy Thompson* at 314.423.2312.

## WINTER WONDERLAND



We will work the evening of December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will need 6 volunteers at all times and will have two shifts – 5:00-7:30 p.m. and 7:30-10:00 p.m.

For giving our time, the League will receive a check for \$500.

It can be wet—it can be cold so dress warmly—and it is a lot of fun.

Please give Barbara Elbrecht a call at 314.962.2821 to let her know when you would like to volunteer and we do thank you for your help.

As you leave, you get to drive through the park to enjoy this great display!

The St Louis County Parks Department has chosen us to work again at the Winter Wonderland.

*Barbara Elbrecht, Chair*

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### TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In honor of Sydell Shayer, for being named to the 2009 class of Ageless, Remarkable St. Louisans from Mary Ellen Brucker to LWVIS.

In honor of Sydell and Larry Shayer from Jill Schupp to LWV St. Louis.

In memory of Sue Wolverson from Emma Lee Chilton to LWV St. Louis.



## **League of Women Voters Holiday Luncheon**

**Saturday, December 5**

Location: Cafe Demenil

Café Demenil is located at the Chatillon-Demenil House at 3353 Demenil Place. It is located about 4 blocks south of the brewery. Originally built in 1848 by Henri Chatillon and enlarged to its present size in 1861 by Nicolas DeMenil, the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion features guided tours, a gift shop, a café, and the largest permanent collection of memorabilia from the 1904 World's Fair. [www.demenil.org](http://www.demenil.org)

**Tours of the house and its 160 years of history will be available for \$5 at 10:00 or 2:00.** The tour is reportedly one of the best in St. Louis. Both the house and the café will be decorated for the holidays.

Our Speaker this year is Carol Ferring Shepley. Carol is Author of Movers and Shakers, Scalawags and Suffragettes: Tales from Bellefontaine Cemetery. According to the book jacket, "The history of Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis is told through the stories of those who are buried there. The book is organized into sections, such as artists, fur traders, and Civil War generals, which feature biographies of individuals. Besides being a history of a significant place, this book functions as a guidebook to St. Louis and its notable residents. Because so many of St. Louis's leading citizens are buried in Bellefontaine, the book is a tale of the city. Cemetery records and interviews with such insiders as the cemetery's superintendent and gatekeeper inform the research. The contributions and controversies that make up St. Louis history are revealed, and the architecture and landscape of the cemetery are celebrated as significant to the region."

As the League prepares to celebrate 90 years, what better way to celebrate the holidays than enjoying an entertaining look back at the "Movers, Shakers and Scalawags and Suffragettes" of St. Louis. The Chatillon-DeMenil House provides the perfect setting for our good-humored look at the past.

Join us and bring a friend—or two—to this year's Holiday Luncheon. See page 11 for details.

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### **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](http://www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp) and follow instructions.
3. Present your card to the cashier for scanning every time you shop at *Schnucks*



## Report from Barbara Elbrecht: BOOKSALE

We had a very disappointing book sale. Friday was cold and windy with drizzle but we had some buyers. We woke to sun on Saturday, but the clouds kept coming and the wind kept blowing.

We had such a good selection of books and we had hoped to do well. Because of this, we have decided to have another book sale in April. We will store the book in my garage and take donations and hope April weather will be more friendly.

A big thank-you to Lois Bliss and the many leaguers who made donations and to those who helped get the books to the Market Place: Mary Parker and her helper, Barb Behiter, Esther and Jim Clark, Ken Maag, K Wentzien and Elise and Denny Joerger. Thanks to Denny for renting a truck and getting Willie Patton and her cousin Kenny to help load the books and take them back to their garage.

We have a special thank-you for Linda Freed who is not a League member, but we had worked with her when we had our books next to U City in Bloom on Delmar during U City in Motion for 2 years. With so many books, we needed more room and Linda told me who to call to get stalls in the Market Place to store the books on Friday night so we would not have to haul them back to the Joerger’s garage. She helped unload and reload books and was a great help. We send her a big thank-you! Special thanks to Jim Clark for bringing us tables to display.

We did make \$485.60, which is less than last year, but we look forward to April and a more successful sale.

## Report from Sydell Shayer: OCTOBER UNITS

The October Units received rave reviews. The total attendance for the five units was approximately 65, including several guests. The subject was the death penalty, specifically the League position supports the abolition of the death penalty. The speakers at the unit meetings were members of Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP). Margaret Phillips, an MADP and League member spoke at two units, Sister Rose Rita spoke at two unit meetings and David McNeil spoke at one. Although each speaker was given the same outline, each meeting was different depending on the speaker and the League members. Members were very interested in the subject and all its ramifications. The meetings were informal, informative and lively with lots of discussion.

Answers to Health Care Questionnaire:		
1. 37 <sup>th</sup>	4. all	7. 2%
2. 16%	5. 2.5 trillion	8. H1N1- very young, & 18-48 most susceptible
3. 729,000	6. \$13,375	Seasonal – Older adults most Susceptible

## ENVIRONMENT and HEALTH CARE COSTS

Health care and health care costs have been the focus of the political discussion at the national level. The EQ committee would like to remind the community that the Environment plays a very important role in health and can contribute to increased health care costs. Human health is impacted by social, political, economic, and environmental factors. Technological factors [urbanization, affluence, scientific development and individual behavior] also affect human health. The genetic makeup, nutritional status, emotional well-being, age, gender and economic status also impact human health and health care costs. This article will discuss climate change and other environmental quality issues that have a detrimental effect on health and health care costs.

Climate change may increase the risk of some infectious diseases, particularly those diseases that appear in warm areas and are spread by mosquitoes and other insects including Malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, encephalitis, Lyme disease, West Nile and other "vector-borne" diseases. Algal blooms and such diseases as cholera could occur more frequently as temperatures warm.

Increase in air and water temperature results in harm to human health and contributes to some air quality problems. Respiratory disorders may be exacerbated by warming-induced increases in the frequency of smog and particulate matter. Ground-level ozone can damage lung tissue, and is especially harmful for those with asthma (a serious environmental health threat) and other chronic lung diseases. Sunlight and high temperatures, combined with other pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, can cause ground-level ozone to increase.

Climate change may increase the concentration of ground-level ozone. Particulate matter is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. When breathed in, these particles can reach the deepest regions of the lungs. Exposure to particle pollution is linked to a variety of significant health problems. Particle pollution

also is the main cause of visibility impairment (haze) in the nation's cities and national parks. Air quality problems increase the cost of health care.



Exposure to environmental hazards ranging from chemical pollutants to natural, technologic, or terrorist disasters can impact human health and health care costs. Cancer Clusters have been identified in areas where carcinogens were leached into the environment from chemical, mining or other activities. Water pollution by birth control pills and phytoestrogens has been linked to increased feminization of some fish. The increase in estrogen and estrogen like compounds in the water could potentially increase the risk of breast and prostate cancer. The environmental contaminants that can affect the neurobehavioral development of the fetus include metals (lead, mercury and manganese), nicotine, pesticides (e.g., organophosphates), dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and solvents (e.g., alcohol). Lead and other environmental contaminants can impact health and health care costs of communities. Children get lead poisoning by ingesting lead dust, lead-contaminated soil, or particles of paint containing lead. Adults can also suffer from lead contamination, but the dangers to children are significantly higher because their body mass is smaller, they are growing rapidly and they have a tendency to put objects and fingers into their mouths. Children, particularly babies who are growing, need calcium for their bodies. If they do not have an adequate diet and/or are exposed to lead hazards, their bodies absorb lead as though it is calcium. Their brains and nervous systems are easily damaged by lead exposure. Once lead is in the environment rather than from paint or mines or industry, it never leaves. Lead remains in the environment. Lead poisoning in children include results in damage to the brain and nervous system, behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, hearing problems, headaches, anemia and the lack of impulse control leading to involvement with the juvenile justice

system while in adults it can lead to difficulties during pregnancy, reproductive problems in both men and women, high blood pressure, digestive problems, nerve disorder, hearing problems, memory and concentration problems, and muscle and joint pain, The health care costs to treat lead poisoning can be expensive.

In conclusion Health Care costs are increased by environmental and ecological consequences.

Improvement in Environmental Quality can help to decrease the health care costs.

Stay tuned as the EQ committee begins work on an LWVUS Grant to advance policies that will

reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient; make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline; and shift to cleaner technologies.

Come to the EQ Committee if you are interested in working to reduce Health Care Costs by improvement of Environmental Quality, or to advance policies to reduce global warming.

## **COMMITTEES AT WORK**

### **EARLY VOTING CONSENSUS STUDY COMMITTEE**

We are studying methods of early voting for the purpose of improving access to voting and increasing voter turnout. This includes early in-person voting, no excuse absentee voting/vote by mail. If you are interested in serving on this committee or feel that you don't have the time to serve, but would like to help with additional research, please contact Martha at 314.434.0330 or e-mail [martyott06@yahoo.com](mailto:martyott06@yahoo.com)

*Marty Ott*



### **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE**

We will be presenting to the units in November. The subject of Health Care Reform and Swine Flu will be the focus of our presentation. If you have any questions call Katherine at 636.861.7148.

*Katharine Kilpatric, Chair*



### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee will be meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the League office.

*Marty Rulo, Chair*

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE



Wanted: Volunteers to advance polices that will reduce global warming pollution.

Come to the EQ Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 10th, 5:30 pm at the League Office. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Nancy Bowser, Chair*



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will hold its regular meeting on Friday, November 13, at 10am at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters building at Lindbergh and Clayton Rd.

*Judith Smart, IR Chair*

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## UNIT MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER: HEALTH CARE

In November the Health Care Committee will be visiting all of the units. We will address two main areas of prime importance at the time of this writing. First is the H1N1 flu pandemic which we are now experiencing. We will discuss how it is different from the usual seasonal flu, who it targets and how and to whom the vaccine is given. The second topic and the one of deep concern and the victim of much misinformation is the question of the Health Care Reform Committee has prepared a series of questions for you to study and answer before the meeting. Answers on page 4

1. According to the World Health Organization, the US ranks in what position regarding health care performance?      1<sup>st</sup>                      9<sup>th</sup>                      37<sup>th</sup>                      15<sup>th</sup>
2. The US spends more on health care than any other nation, yet we rank 29th in infant mortality and 34th in life expectancy. We are spending what percent of our income of Health Care?      4%                      16%                      9%                      52%
3. Many low income working people in Missouri are without health insurance. How many are without coverage?      513                      729,000                      50,000                      99,500
4. Which of the following are significant health determinates?  
Public Policy    Environmental pollution    Individual behavior                      All of these
5. What is the projected amount the USA will spend on health care in 2009?  
\$3.5 Billion                      \$90 Million                      \$6 Billion                      \$2.5 Trillion
6. What is the average cost of a family health insurance policy offered by an employer?  
\$5,075                      \$19,275                      \$13,375                      \$15,475

7. What is the estimated cost, out of overall health care spending, of malpractice litigation?  
**19%                  2%                  30%                  10%**
8. How does the H1N1 flu differ in respect to the seasonal flu in regard to the age of the target groups?

## Unit Meetings Locations

**UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON**

Tuesday, November 10  
 9:15 a.m. coffee  
 9:30 a.m. meeting

**HOME OF ELISE JOERGER**

7136 Kingsbury  
 314.725.4829  
 Leader: Carol Portman  
 314.726.3269

**North on Big Bend, 1<sup>st</sup> stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2<sup>nd</sup> block on left.**

**WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD**

Wednesday, November 11  
 9:30 a.m. meeting

**HOME OF LOIS BLISS**

131 E Adams #2C  
 314.965.0092  
 Leader: Mary Long  
 314.849.7045

**Corner of Adams and Kirkwood Rd., on right next to the Commerce Bank**

**CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR**

Thursday, November 12  
 9:30 a.m. meeting  
 Noon salad lunch

**HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER**

709 Champeix Lane  
 314.434.5116  
 Leader: Norma Jean Downey  
 636.391.7589

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

**WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD**

Thursday, November 12  
 7:00 p.m.

**LEAGUE OFFICE**

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104  
 314.961.6869  
 Leader: Esther Clark 314.416.0366

**ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT**

Saturday, November 14th  
 10:30 a.m.

**TRINITY CHURCH**

Euclid and Washington  
 Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert  
 314.773.8719 or Kathleen  
 Farrell 314.773.2876

**Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar  
 For ride contact Betty Ann or Kathleen**

**2009 – 2010 Discussion Topics for Units**

November - Health Care

December - Holiday Lunch – December 5th

January - Program Planning for LWVUS + Intro. Early Voting Consensus

February - Early Voting Consensus

March - International Relations



**VOLUNTEER CORNER**

Thanks to all who so generously gave their time & expertise to the League this month. Those willing volunteers this month were Nancy Bowser, Doris Buzzell, Marj Courtney, Clyde & Verna Creel, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Denny & Elise Joerger, and Judith Smart. An extra special Thank-You to Esther Clark!

If you wish to assist us with office tasks please let us know and we will add you to the ranks of those we call on when needed. Call the League office at 314.961.6869.

*Julie Behrens, Staff*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS**

This month I have been thinking about what it means to say the League of Women Voters is “fair”. We could claim it purely in terms of our charm and beauty, but “fair” is more nuanced than that.

The words “fair and balanced” are linked together for many of us in our ideal version of what the news should be. Does fair seek balance? In terms of LWV’s stance on election law, we advocate for fair and uniform implementation of standards. Does fair require uniformity? “Fair and free” are the goals enforced by international monitors in democracies new and old. Does fair need free?

Impartiality and honesty probably come closest to what we mean when we describe fair as a goal for League positions and action. Free from self-interest would also be accurate, in that our interest in sound policy and good government comes rather, from a collective national interest.

*Anna Mennerick*

# ***St. Louis League of Women Voters Holiday Luncheon***

***Saturday, December 5, 2009***

***11:30 - 2:00***

***Café Demenil at the Historic Chatillon-Demenil House***

***3353 Demenil Place, 63118***

***Come Celebrate with excellent food, friends, an Outstanding  
Speaker and the ambiance of historic St. Louis.***

**Reservations Required by November 30th—314.961.6869 - league@lwvstl.org**

Doors open at 11:30

Lunch at 12:00

Choices: Spinach salad, Stuffed Baked Breast of Chicken w/mushroom sauce, rice

Or Field Greens w/asiago and Vinaigrette, Sauteed Portabella mushrooms,  
Artichoke & Red Pepper Penne

Dessert: Caramel & Roasted Walnut Bread Pudding

Coffee or Tea

Speaker: Author, Carol Ferring Shepley “Women and Men who Fought for the Vote”

Presenting at 1:00pm

More information on page 4.

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Luncheon Reservations @ \$ 17.00 each

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of St. Louis.

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IN LEAGUE REPORTER

