



# IN LEAGUE REPORTER

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS**

**8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104,**

**St Louis, MO 63144**

**314.961.6869**

**www.lwvstl.org**

**NOVEMBER 2011**

## 2011-2012 LWVSTL BOARD of DIRECTORS

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## CLEAN AIR PROMISE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Have YOU made the Clean Air Promise yet? Making this Promise is “our social commitment and we depend on our officials to safeguard it”.

### THE PROMISE

I PROMISE TO PROTECT America’s children and families from dangerous air pollution.

Because toxic pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,

I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.

\*\*\*\*\*

Go to <http://peoplenotpolluters.org> and make the promise. The site also allows you to send an email about the promise to your elected state and federal officials.

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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Tues. Nov. 1st	1-3:00 pm	St. Louis City/St Louis County Study Committee	League Office
Sat. Nov 5th	9—3 pm	LWVMO State Fall Conference	Sedalia
Tues. Nov. 8-Sat. Nov. 12th		Unit Meetings	See Page 7
Tues. Nov. 8th	7:00 pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	League Office
Thurs. Nov. 10th	10:30 am	Health Care Comm.	Cape Albeon
Fri. Nov. 11th	10:00 am	International Relations Comm.	St Louis Co. Lib HQ
Wed. Nov. 16th	6:00 pm	LWVSTL Board Meeting	League Office
Wed.-Fri. Nov.23-25th		OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING	
<b>PLAN AHEAD</b>			
Sat. Dec. 10th	TBA	Holiday Luncheon	TBA
Mon. Dec 19th	5-10:00 pm	Winter Wonderland	Tilles Park



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS**

Dear Friends,

☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ *“Some people* ☆  
 ☆ *give time,* ☆  
 ☆ *some money,* ☆  
 ☆ *some their* ☆  
 ☆ *skills and* ☆  
 ☆ *connections,* ☆  
 ☆ *some literally* ☆  
 ☆ *give their* ☆  
 ☆ *life’s* ☆  
 ☆ *blood...but* ☆  
 ☆ *everyone has* ☆  
 ☆ *something to* ☆  
 ☆ *give.* ☆  
 ☆ *Barbara Bush* ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Fall is here and the League’s program is well under way! Part 1 of the consensus process of our national study on the Federal Role in Education went very well thanks to Marty Ott and her well prepared committee and your lively participation. Get ready for Part 2 by reading the material in this ILR before you go to your unit meeting. LWVUS will take all of the consensus material from around the country and present the results at the national convention in Washington D.C.

Sydell Shayer hosted a very successful new and prospective member meeting at her home on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Pat Jones and her committee brought together an outstanding group interested in joining the League. Some of them had been intending to join us for a while. But some of them were serious about joining because they had seen us in action over the last year. One person had attended the congressional candidate forum at Forest Park Community College. Another worked for a non profit group who appreciated our explanation of a state wide proposition in the Voters Guide. Another was a candidate who appreciated the work we did with her to get her information in the Guide.

Our experience supports the LWVUS’s findings that people want to see the League at work before they make a commitment to join. The more active and visible we are, the stronger our membership and volunteer base will be. Take someone you know who might join us to a League event.

We hope that some of you will join us at the Fall Conference in Sedalia on November 5<sup>th</sup>. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from our sister Leagues around the state and gear up for the 2012 election season.

In the meantime, we will be keeping a close eye on the Voter I.D. issue, proposed tax legislation, the EPA, health care reform, and the other issues we care about. We will keep you posted.

Linda McDaniel  
 Co-President

Kathleen Farrell  
 Co-President

*Good News from the Joint Office..*

Thanks to all who contributed to the League of Women Voters of Missouri “Bring Back the Day Campaign”, Anna Mennerick is back to 30 hours per week. Next Goal is to get 6 of Julie Behrens hours returned to Missouri tasks. Thanks for supporting the League!

## ***Membership “Tea Time” Rousing Success***

Twelve new and prospective members had the opportunity to learn more about the League on Oct. 17 when they were treated to a beautiful tea and reception at the home of Sydell Shayer. Linda McDaniel talked about the League from a historical perspective, Kathleen Farrell summarized our upcoming events, and over tea and delicious desserts, guests were able to ask questions about the League. Special thanks to Sydell for hosting the event at her lovely home and to Janis Pupillo for assisting with the food, setup, and cleanup.

Pat Jones, Membership Chair



## **“League in the Loop” Tailgate Sale**

Our “League in the Loop” Tailgate Sale held Labor Day, Sept. 5th, went well, although we had fewer vendors than we had hoped for. However, with 100<sup>0</sup> temperatures the week before, I believe many perspective vendors thought it would be just too hot to sit all day on the asphalt.

As it turned out, it was a beautiful cool day—even a bit chilly at 5 am—and the vendors who did sign up had wonderful weather.

One lady who came as we opened told me she was so glad we were having the sale. She had borrowed \$20., collected some items and asked if she could buy half a space. She needed to make some money to save her house.

I couldn’t have done the sale without the help of Elise and Denny Joerger who came on that very hot Saturday morning to help me set up the barriers with the NO PARKING signs. K Wentzien who drove me to University City to mark the spaces and Esther and Jim Clark who came at 5am on Labor Day to help put the barriers in place and put up the directional signs. Jim came back at 3 o’clock to help me take it all down and I did appreciate that.

Of course I couldn’t have done any of it without Julie Behrens who ran the letters and envelopes, handled the reservations both mail and in person and printed a list for me so I could check in the vendors and then ran a final list so I could make this report.

We had a total of 30 vendors, and after expenses for advertising and a portable toilet cleared \$310.

If we had had our booth we would have made at least \$500. more. The space we usually occupy was completely empty and it would have helped the sale if we had been there. Some people asked me where we were. One lady told me about several items she had bought from us last year and a gentleman asked where the ladies were. When I explained—he said they had nice things.

Being there would have given the league visibility — something we always talked about in League meetings. Hopefully next year.

Barbara Elbrecht, “League in the Loop” Tailgate Chairman

# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

December 10th

Details TBA



This year, instead of treating ourselves, we're treating others. You are asked to bring a new children's book (unwrapped) or gift certificate for a child newborn-16 years old. Gifts will be donated to parent's shopping day at local food pantries.

**DETAILS ABOUT THE LUNCHEON  
WILL BE SENT OUT SHORTLY !!**

## WINTER WONDERLAND



**They want us back!** The St. Louis County Parks have chosen us to work again at the Winter Wonderland. This is a beautiful display so be sure to let all your friends know about it and that League volunteers will be working again this year.

**We will work the evening of Monday, December 19<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 of Women Voters Information Service 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 call Barbara Elbrecht 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!

PIPELINE TO PUBLIC OFFICE — SUE SHEAR INSTITUTE  
2 DAY WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 11-12, 2011  
[www.umsl.edu/sueshear](http://www.umsl.edu/sueshear) or call Raina Traore-Gress 314.516.5974

**WOMEN'S MONTH**

## LWVMO FALL CONFERENCE NOV. 5<sup>TH</sup>

The Annual LWV Fall Conference is scheduled for November 5th at State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo. from 9 to 3 pm.

Welcome to a FULL day of memorable experiences, facts, figures, fun and good humor (thrown in-no charge).

Everyone attending will become very well informed and equipped to deal knowledgeably with the multitude of issues facing the League of Women Voters in the coming months and year.

Sessions are scheduled to include Privatization, Development, Statewide Petitions, Redistricting, Vote 411.org, the State and National Constitution Revision and the Clean Air Promise plus there will be four breakout sessions on Salsa, CARRIE, Education and Legislative Priorities. You will be astounded at the information you will carry home to use/act on this year.

You may want to come in Friday and take in Hello Dolly with the local theater group, the Railroad Museum at the Depot or

the Daum Art Museum at the college. Let Mary know if you need housing by calling her at 660.826.2793 or email [m.merritt@charter.net](mailto:m.merritt@charter.net).

Registration including lunch is \$15 and should be sent to Mary Merritt 1812 S. Grand Sedalia, Mo. 65301 by October 28th. She must have the numbers for lunch in by then or you go out or go hungry!

Here are some of the additional items scheduled:

**Silent Auction-** Do bring items and your checkbook. There will also be League pins, coasters etc. available.

**Calendars-** Orders will be brought from St. Louis if you want to save shipping costs. Get them in and let them know.

Everyone, not just Board members, is welcome at Mary's Friday evening for supper, but you do need to tell her you are attending.

Join the group attending from St. Louis! Linda McDaniel and Kathleen Farrell are giving presentations. Call the office to find out about carpools, housing and registration.

### LOCAL MEDIA SEEKS INPUT FOR CAMPAIGN COVERAGE

The St. Louis Beacon, the Nine Network of Public Media and St. Louis Public Radio are making plans for covering the 2012 election campaigns. You are invited to join in one of the upcoming conversations to share what kind of information you'd like to receive to help you decide who gets your vote. (STLBeacon)

**The following conversations are being held:**

**St. Louis:**

Thu. Nov. 10, 6-7 pm, Central Reform Congregation, 5020 Waterman Rd

**St. Louis County:**

Tue., Nov. 8, 6-7 pm, UMSL, Millenium Student Center, One University Blvd., Normandy

**St. Charles County:**

Thu., Oct. 27, 12:15-1:15 pm, St Charles City-County Library, K. Linnermann Branch, 2323 Elm St.

**Illinois:**

Wed. Nov.2, 5:30-6:30 pm, Belleville Public Library, 121 E. Washington St.

Wed. Nov. 9, 11:30 am, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave., Granit City

For those who are unable to attend the conversation, you may visit the Beacon Website ([stlbeacon.org](http://stlbeacon.org)) and click on *Help us plan election campaign coverage*. You may also go to :<http://bit.ly/Campaignchats> to share your insights.



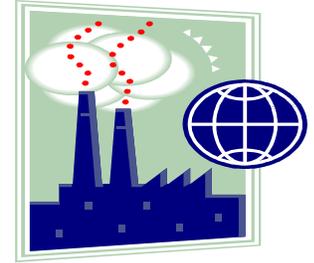
WVZM 92.3000

# COMMITTEES

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The next meeting of the EQ Committee will be Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the League Office at 7:00 pm. Dessert will be provided. We continue to look at Environmental Issues and Sustainability. Contact Mickey Croyle ([mcroyle@wustl.edu](mailto:mcroyle@wustl.edu) or 314.395.7876) with suggestions or questions.

*Mickey Croyle, Chair*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE



The Education Committee will be presenting their study of the Role of Government in Education, specifically the **Educational Standards** issues, to all units in November.

*Marty Ott, Chair*

## HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Health Care Committee will meet at Cape Albeon on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am in the private dining room. Call Katharine Kilpatric at 636.861.7148 if you have any questions relating to directions to the meeting place or if you plan to attend. Cape Albeon from Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry: go west on Dougherty Ferry to Lake Bend Drive, (after you cross Big Bend) left on Lake Bend Drive and you are there.

*Katharine Kilpatric, Chair*



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



The International Relations Committee will meet on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am at the St Louis County Library Headquarters. All are welcome.

*Judith Smart, Chair*

## LOCAL STUDY ON THE WORKINGS OF ST. LOUIS CITY AND ST. LOUIS

Interested in investigating the workings of St Louis City, St Louis County and the many ways services are provided? Can you give insight or history?

At the first meeting, we will determine which issues we want to tackle. Will it be pooling city vs. at large? Will it be MSD or Metro or duplicate services or overlapping responsibilities? Come and bring a friend for some lively discussion.

Meeting schedule: **1st Tuesday, 1-3 at LWV office.** Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, March 6, Apr 3, May 1)

*Becky Clausen, Chair* [beckyhclausen@gmail.com](mailto:beckyhclausen@gmail.com)



## HEALTH EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution has major impacts on health with particular effect on those with pulmonary disease or asthma. **Particulate Matter (PM)** consists of tiny particles that are easily inhaled deep into the lungs and may cause a variety of harmful health effects including hospitalizations for worsened heart diseases, emergency room visits for asthma, and premature death. PM is caused by cars and trucks (especially diesels), fireplaces, woodstoves, and windblown dust from roadways, agriculture and construction. **Ozone** develops as chemicals emitted from motor vehicles, industrial emissions, and consumer products react with sunlight to form ozone in the atmosphere. Ozone health effects include: cough, chest tightness, difficulty taking a deep breath, worsened asthma symptoms, and lung inflammation. Ozone greatly impacts both asthma sufferers as well as those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). **Carbon Monoxide** impacts on health include: chest pain in heart patients, headaches, nausea, reduced mental alertness and death at very high levels. Any source that burns fuel such as cars, trucks, construction and farming equipment, and residential heaters and stoves can release carbon monoxide into the air. **Nitrogen Dioxide** is a reactive gas capable of damaging the cells lining the respiratory tract. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) can cause increased response to allergens and is formed at the same time as carbon monoxide. **Toxic Air Contaminants** impacts on health include cancer, chronic eye, lung or skin irritation, and neurological and reproductive disorders. Toxic air contaminants are formed by cars and trucks (especially diesels), industrial sources, such as chrome platters', neighborhood businesses (dry cleaners and service stations), as well as building materials and products. These health effects have been documented by numerous academic and EPA studies in the 80's and 90's. Please see the previous ILR article on air pollution ([http://www.lwvstl.org/files/air\\_pollution.pdf](http://www.lwvstl.org/files/air_pollution.pdf)) for additional information.

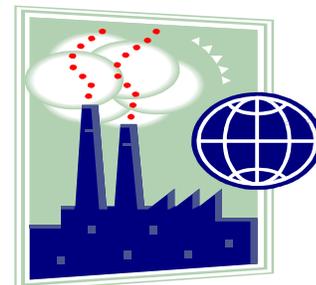
With the economic problems of the United States and the world, there has been increasing attacks on clean air and public health. Since the 1970s the League has advocated for strong public health and environmental protections. Congress has proposed the weakening of the Clean Air Act and the federal agencies that implement the law. The League has objected to the proposed revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards which would weaken and delay implementation of the Clean Air Act.

The League of Women Voters US has launched a campaign seeking to renew America's promise to protect clean air and public health embodied in the highly successful and popular Clean Air Act. **The Clean Air Promise Campaign** will call on citizens, elected officials and community leaders around the country to join in making this simple promise to protect the health of our children and families.

Visit the LWVUS Web Page for the

**Clean Air Promise** <http://peoplenotpolluters.org/>

and take the Promise.



WOMEN - UNITED STATES

November Unit Meetings will center on the Core Standards aspects of the **Education Study**, presented by the study committee, headed by Marty Ott.

*REMEMBER TO BRING THE INSERT/PAPERS CONCERNING  
THE EDUCATION STUDY !!!*

**CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR**

Thursday, November 10th  
9:30 am  
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER  
709 Champeix Lane  
314.434.5116  
Leader: Mary Brown  
636.532.0833

Directions: From 270 take Ladue Rd west 1.4 miles to Chasselle. Right on Chasselle. At 2nd circle, turn right on Champiex, 5th house on the right. White house with red sculpture.

**ST LOUIS CITY**

Saturday, November 12th  
10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH  
Euclid and Washington  
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert  
314.925.8251

**THURSDAY EVENING UNIT**

Thursday, November 10th  
7:00 pm

LEAGUE OFFICE  
8706 Manchester Rd, Suite 104  
Leader: Esther Clark  
314.416.0366

**UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON**

Tuesday, November 8th  
9:15 am coffee  
9:30 am

LIBRARY, University United Methodist Church  
6901 Washington Ave 63130, 314.863.8055  
Leader: Carol Portman  
314.726.3269

Directions: 1 block south of Delmar at the northwest corner of Washington and Trinity—just inside The lions' gates—across from Wash U Music School and diagonally across from COCA

**WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD**

Wednesday, November 9th  
9:30 am

HOME OF MARY LONG  
10 Zinzer Ct., Grantwood Village, 63123  
Leader: Mary Long  
314.849.7045

Directions: Grant Rd to Gravois, left on Gravois and first left into Grantwood Village onto Grantview Lane. Go to first stop sign and turn right. We are the third house on the right.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**MEMBERSHIP  
UPDATES:**

Shari Heath  
3876 Del Lago Dr.  
Florissant MO 63034-2118  
314.838.3891

Rejoined:  
Karen Dahman  
115 E. Mermod Pl.  
St. Louis MO 63122-2934  
314.984.8988

**NEW MEMBERS**

Barbara Mercadante  
5714 Hillcamp Ct.  
St. Louis MO 63128-4132  
314.849.2468

Kristen Weber  
1733 Purity Ct.  
Fenton MO 63026-6602  
314.302.3134

Address Change:  
Naomi & Bob Edmonds  
Friendship Village  
15201 Olive Blvd.  
Chesterfield MO 63017-1810



**TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS**

In honor of the celebration of Will & Norma Jean Downey's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary from Marty Ott to LWV St. Louis and from Sydell Shayer to LWV Information Service. In memory of Joan Shifter and Larry Lieberman from Sydell Shayer to LWV Information Service.

**VOLUNTEER CORNER**

Thanks to the following who contributed time and effort assisting with various tasks since our last newsletter: Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Clyde Creel, Verna Creel, Janice Dahl, Sue Dellbringge, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, and Louise Reeves, and have neglected to mention anyone, please let us know and we will acknowledge you in the next newsletter.

If you are willing to volunteer some time, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609 or email Barbara at [IMBJH@charter.net](mailto:IMBJH@charter.net)



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

Did you know that the League of Women Voters' positions on Natural Resources were formulated as early as 1958? These positions came out of League member concern for depletion and conservation of natural resources as far back as the 1920s. Early study of water resources led to an understanding of the relationship between water and air pollution. This is the foundation under our current Clean Air Promise Campaign. To make the promise yourself or see who else has, visit [www.peoplenotpolluters.com](http://www.peoplenotpolluters.com) If you need help call the office, 314/961-6869

# **LWVUS ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION CONSENSUS STUDY 2011-2012**

**Role of the Federal Government in Public Education Consensus Study, Part 2 – Common Core Standards** will be presented at the November Unit Meetings. Please check the In League Reporter for your preferred date, time and location – “Mark your Calendar”. The enclosed materials are provided so you may prepare for this consensus discussion. If you are receiving this electronically, PLEASE PRINT AND BRING A COPY WITH YOU TO THE UNIT MEETING. If receiving by mail, please REMOVE, SAVE AND BRING TO THE UNIT MEETING. A limited number of copies of the Consensus Questions will be made available.

Education Consensus Study LWVSTL Committee: Marty Ott, chair; Rosalie Brasch, Doris Buzzell, Bob Elgin, Joan Esserman, Mary Beth Reynolds, and Pat Soraghan.

## **CONTENTS:**

Common Core Standards

Consensus Questions: General and Common Core Standards

**The Committee thanks you for your participation. This committee will be meeting only to finalize our report to the LWVSTL and the LWVUS.**

**Please watch for future Committee meetings beginning 2012.**

**Marty Ott, chair**  
**martyott06@yahoo.com**

## Common Acronyms/Abbreviations

CCSI: Common Core Standards Initiative

CCSSO: Council of Chief State School Officers

NAEP: National Assessment of Education Progress

NGA: National Governor’s Association

PARCC: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

SBAC: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

## **COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

Students who move from one part of the United States to another during their K-12 school careers are likely to encounter substantial variations in requirements for graduation. The Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSI, 2010) stated: “We need standards to ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. Common standards will help ensure that students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. Common standards will provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to best serve the needs of students.”

Currently, standards for student performance vary widely by state. The roots of current state-to-state inconsistencies lie in the fact that public education in the United States has traditionally been a local responsibility. However, textbook publishers have created something of a "de facto" national curriculum, based on market needs. Consequently, many textbooks from major publishers have reflected the curricular choices that were made by educational groups in the largest states. Some publishers do create textbooks and other curricula for smaller markets. Rothman (2009) summarized the efforts of various groups to create common standards across the United States. Initial efforts to foster development of national standards and a related system of assessments in the core subject areas began in the early 1990's through awarding grants to a dozen national organizations. The National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) launched the Common Core State Standards initiative in March 2009 after the nation's governors agreed in concept to adopt a uniform set of standards. The final report was issued on June 2, 2010 (NGA, 2010), and, by early 2011, 40 states have adopted the Standards. The adopting states are currently aligning them to their own state standards.

The Fordham Institute (Carmichael, et al. 2010) reported that the Common Core standards received high marks when compared to state standards across the country. The Institute suggests that Common Core Standards represent an opportunity for creating consistency and raising standards in all states.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

The implementation of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has created a 50-state and 50-test environment in public education. As a result state-to-state expectations and performances vary greatly. States publish annual reports of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which are required by federal law, but the meaning of "proficient" in those reports can vary widely from one state to another (Cronin, et al. 2007).

Larger testing companies market a variety of norm-referenced standardized tests. However, they are designed to rank students, rather than to determine how well students have mastered curricular objectives as criterion-referenced tests would do. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) publishes results that are technically adequate for state-to-state (and international) comparisons, but that assessment is not designed to produce individual student scores. NAEP requires a large sample of students to produce results. Most school systems are too small to qualify for testing that would produce local NAEP results. The tradition of local governance has led to inconsistent requirements and standards for student performance across the country. Thus, in 2010, the United States does not have a consistent set of academic assessments for grades K-12.

Two coalitions, together representing 44 states and the District of Columbia, won a U.S. Department of Education competition for \$330 million dollars federal aid to design "comprehensive assessment systems" aligned to the Common Core and designed to measure whether students are on track for college and career success. The awards, announced in September 2010, were divided between the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), comprised of 26 states receiving \$170 million, and the SMARTER Balanced Assessment

Consortium that comprises 31 states and received \$160 million. At least 12 states participated in both coalitions and are waiting to decide which assessment system will best meet their needs. An advantage of having assessments that are used in more than one state is that results from all participating states could be compared.

### **WHY NOT NATIONAL STANDARDS OR ASSESSMENTS?**

The most common arguments against adopting the Common Core Standards for K-12 center on two issues: 1) the cost and difficulty of changing the existing curriculum and assessments and (2) the sovereignty of states in issues related to education and local control. Governor Rick Perry of Texas stated that the Race to the Top funding would only generate a one-time amount of \$75 per student, yet cost Texas taxpayers an additional \$3 million. A third argument is that the individual state standards might be more rigorous. However, states that adopt the Common Core are permitted to add 15 percent more in content. Another concern is the potential to use scores from the student assessments as a major component of teacher evaluations and merit pay plans, an idea that has popular appeal. (*TIME*, 2010). In August 2010, ten of the nation's premier educational researchers (Baker, Barton, Darling-Hammond, Haertel, Ladd, Linn, Ravid, Rothstein, Shavelson & Shepard, 2010) co-authored a report that cautioned against relying on student test scores as a major indicator for evaluating teachers, citing the technical problems associated with using scores from standardized student assessments in value-added statistical models.

### **DOES THE UNITED STATES NEED A NATIONAL CURRICULUM?**

The U.S. Department of Education presents the view that, since the developers of the Common Core Standards and the proposed assessments have been groups with state representation rather than the federal government, neither program is a federal initiative. (U.S. Department of Education, 2010, March 13). In March 2011, the Albert Shanker Institute issued a call for common curriculum guidelines (Albert Shanker Institute, 2011; Gewertz, C. 2011, March). This document voices the concern that common assessments are being developed from the common standards with no curriculum in between. In May 2011, another group published an article with a different view: "Closing the Door on Innovation: Why One National Curriculum is Bad for America" (2011), discussed by Gewertz, C. (2011, May). The article also cites the prohibition against a federal curriculum contained in the 1965 ESEA.



If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- A. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- B. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
- C. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)

- A. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
- B. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
- C. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
- D. No national curriculum.

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)

- A. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- B. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
- C. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
- D. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
- E. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)

- A. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
- B. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
- C. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):

- A. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
- B. Reward schools that achieve high scores
- C. Rank teachers based on student test score data
- D. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
- E. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.



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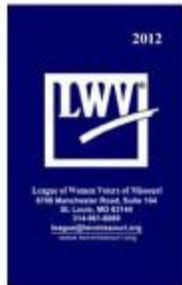
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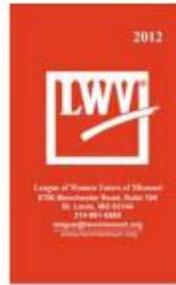
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