



IN LEAGUE REPORTER –OCTOBER 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:

I hope everyone had a nice enjoyable summer. Mine was special with a reunion of a few friends from Jr High, more than 50 years and a visit to Seattle, and the League National Convention, of course. Fall, school and regular League activities are about to begin.

It has been a busy summer with continuing celebrations and remembrances of the League 90th anniversary, the August primary Voters Guide in collaboration with the St. Louis Post Dispatch, preparation now of the Novembers Guide with new questions for candidates. We have had a very favorable response to the Guide, from the public and candidates and a very high response rate from the candidates. This summer we received calls from the media (FOX News out of Chicago and local Channel 5) about our position opposing Proposition C. In fact I was on FOX News “Special Report”. Arranging and planning for a variety of different candidate forums, headlined at this writing for two for the 3rd Congressional District, be sure to be looking details later in this news letter and check our web site, www.lwvstl.org, there will be other candidate meetings As I said it was busy. I seem to remember summers where the League was relative quiet in the summer, that is no longer the case.

We look for an equally busy year ahead. I hope to see you at our Annual Kickoff Meeting, September 22nd. Be sure to join us for the Social hour since Lois Detrick our state president will be joining us. I believe it should be a very interesting program present by Professor Terry Jones from UM-St. Louis and Amy Blouin, Missouri Budget project who will be talking about the big picture of financing government and then the details.

I think the year will include many interesting and new programs this year. We always return from a national convention with new ideas and some of them are in the development stages so watch for announcements.

I think the League is as vital and needed as it was 90 years ago. I would like to ask for your involvement, there are many jobs that will allow the League to continue our relevance and you can help. The jobs range from 2-3 hours once a week, once a month or serving on a committee that may mean several meetings during the year. Call the office and we can talk about what you would be of interest to you. See you at the Kickoff.

Linda

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CALENDAR						
Thurs.	Oct.	7	12:30	Civility Committee	Pg. 5	League Office
Sat.	Oct.	9	9am-4	Book Sale	Pg. 5	Delmar Loop
Sat.	Oct.	9	10:00	Obstetric Fistula HC & IR	Pg. 6	Cape Albeon
	Oct.	9-14		Unit Meetings	Pg. 7-9	
Tues.	Oct.	12	5:30 pm	Environmental Quality Comm	Pg. 7	League Office
Tues.	Oct.	19	7:00 pm	Lavender-Stream Forum	Pg 4	Kirkwood Baptist Church
Wed.	Oct.	20	6:00 pm	LWVSTL Board Meeting		League Office

WHERE THE LEAGUE STANDS – IMPORTANT ISSUES

HEALTH CARE RESOLUTION passed by LWVUS – June 14, 2010

Whereas the League of Women Voters of the United States believes quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents; and

Whereas the current and proposed systems do not achieve the League goals of affordability and access to everyone; and

Whereas an improved Medicare for all, a publicly funded and privately delivered national health care plan is consistent with this goal;

Therefore, be it resolved, we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.

Physicians for a National Health Program (www.pnhp.org) is an organization of more than 17,000 physicians who support a single-payer national insurance program. To contact a physician-spokesperson in your area visit www.pnhp.org/stateactions or call 312.782.6006.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY -- A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVERYONE!!

The EQ Committee is focusing on the steps each of us can take in our lives and in our homes to protect our environment. The committee's goals this year are to provide current and accurate information, offer ideas and measures you can adopt in your home, and provide informed answers to questions regarding energy saving measures. This issue we open with the following Energy Conservation low cost ideas and suggestions that will have an immediate and truly beneficial impact on our environment:

Electricity facts to consider: one pound of coal is burned to produce a one kilowatt hour of energy. Burning a 100 watt lamp for one hour uses 1 kilowatt of electricity. Up to seventy five percent of that energy is wasted in production and delivery to your home. The average home can use 20-60 pounds of coal a day. The average household creates more carbon pollution than the average car. Given these facts, one can see how reducing your lighting energy usage will have an exponential positive effect on our environment.

*Embrace the use of compact fluorescent lamps (those curly cue Light bulbs) and LED lamps in your home. CFL's use 75% less energy than traditional lamps (remember to recycle/dispose properly) and LED's use 75% less than CFL's.

* Install room occupancy sensors which turn off lights when people leave the room.

*Many of our appliances and electronics such as cell phones, battery chargers, computers, stereo systems, game consoles, televisions, microwaves and other kitchen appliances keep using electricity even when we aren't using them. Make an assessment in your home and routinely unplug, power down these items or install smart strips to end wasteful ghost loads. Smart strips automatically power appliances off and on when they sense a decrease/increase in the electrical load.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Three tiers of new energy efficiency incentives are being offered by the state of Missouri beginning October 4th. The state will pay for an energy audit of your home up to \$500 plus 50% - 70% of subsequent repair costs up to \$19,000 depending on the tiers of repairs chosen. The state is making an allowance for a whole house performance energy audit because this important assessment will enable you to make informed decisions about the most cost effective, energy efficient approach in your home. Below you will find a link with more information regarding this program.

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissourihomes.htm>

Click on:

*Homeowner upgrades and geothermal program

*Homeowner upgrades and geothermal guidelines, pages 10-13 In addition to this, federal incentives are still available until December. See the link below for up to date information.

https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_index

This article was written by league member and energy auditor **Kellye Markowski**. You are encouraged to contact her at **314.255.9922** with your questions regarding the state incentives. Please submit your home energy conservation topics for discussion or your energy conservation questions to the League office and we will address them in future ILR's.

THE LEAGUE AT WORK

TAILGATE SALE

We couldn't have had nicer weather, although sometimes it was so windy it was blowing down our barriers.

We had forty-two vendors selling everything from hot dogs to expensive jewelry. We still could use more customers and I am checking with some vendors to see how other garage sales draw the people.

Thanks to donations from so many of you; our booth had lots to sell. We could use more volunteers to help set up and sell.

A big thanks you to Betty and Ken Maag. Betty cleaned up the donated jewelry and sold it at the sale and Ken filled his wagon with our items and helped sell at the sale. Joe Kleeman loaded up his car with items and brought them over. Kathleen Farrell helped set up and sell items during the morning shift. Esther and Jim Clark not only hauled items to the sale but Jim cleaned up a big light and made sure it worked and it sold. My special thanks to Esther who told me what a number of items were (I had no clue) and made sure they worked. I could plug in Lamps and toasters but that is the best I can do!

Thanks also to Carol Portman, Doris Buzzell. Elise and Denny Joerger and Willie Mae Patton for coming to do the setup; to Suzanne Kirkpatrick and Linda McDaniel who helped sell, to Marjorie Courtney who helped sell and who stayed to help with the pack up, and to Sydell Shayer came later to sell and brought her pickup to haul the leftovers to the Goodwill. K Wentzien not only helped me number the booths on Saturday night, and took the larger items to the sale but came back with her pickup to take leftovers to the Goodwill.

Including checks from members still to be received, we will make at least \$600 from our sale. Of course the money from the vendors is where we make our most money, and that totaled \$1350.

Editor's note:

The League takes this opportunity to thank Barbara for Heading the Tailgate and Book Sale events, making them a success these many years. After eight years of stalwart dedication, including storing the items, sorting, cleaning, and pricing the items, Barbara will be concentrating her energies on working with the vendors, setting up the venue, and advertising the event. If anyone is interested in storing, sorting, cleaning and pricing the items, please contact Kathleen Farrell at 314.773.2876.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

September kept our speakers busy: CAROL PORTMAN spoke about the importance of voting to Operation Excel Youth Build, part of St. Louis Housing Authority on Sept. 2 and again on Sept. 17 to the group of home-schooled students at the Old Courthouse during Constitution Day. Constitution Day also found MARY K. BROWN and DORIS BUZZELL speaking to groups of students at Sanford-Brown College in Fenton. In October, JOAN ESSERMAN will talk about the November election to AARP Chapter 2946 in South County. Requests are coming in pre-election. EVE GOLDEN has graciously offered to assist the Speakers Bureau. Thanks to all.

Marjorie Courtney, Coordinator

CANDIDATE FORUMS

IF IT'S NOVEMBER, IT MUST BE ELECTION SEASON

The November elections are right around the corner, and the League has been asked to coordinate and moderate numerous Candidate Forums. The League has a rich tradition of providing this non-partisan education service to the community. In order to continue this tradition, we need volunteers to serve as Moderators, Timers, and Card Collectors. Please check with Doris Buzzell for volunteer opportunities. You can contact her at: telephone (314.966.8425) or email Doris at dbuzzell4@charter.net

Thank you to all who have volunteered for previous Forums, and who are willing to help during this 2010 Fall Season. Pat Jones

FORUMS PLANNED:

94th State Representative District

Deb Lavender

Rick Stream

The candidate forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Kirkwood Baptist Church, 211 North Woodlawn, Kirkwood MO 63122. The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis and the Community for Understanding and Hope.

2 forums for

3rd United States Congressional District

Russ Carnahan

Ed Martin

Steven R. Hedrick

Nicholas J. (Nick) Ivanovich

One forum is scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24th at Forest Park Community College Theater, 5600 Oakland St. Louis MO 63110. This forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis and Forest Park Community College.

The second forum is scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 26th at the Arnold Rec Center Gymnasium, 1695 MO State Road Arnold MO 63010. This forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis

CALL TO ACTION

Reception/Breakfast for Elected Officials:

The planning group has decided on a location is looking at a Saturday morning in early December as a possible time for this event. They plan to invite all local, newly elected officials. This event will take the place of the Holiday Luncheon held in the past. If you would like to be part of the enthusiastic group planning for this event, please give Anna a call at the league office.

Civil Discussion in an Uncivil Time:

We are moving forward with plans for a two-session workshop early in 2011. The committee is at work on all of the arrangements and is enthusiastically planning this event. Our next meeting is October 7th at 12:30 at the League office. If you are interested in being part of this excitingly Civility project, call Nancy Miller at 636.529.0474 or email at njsmill@yahoo.com

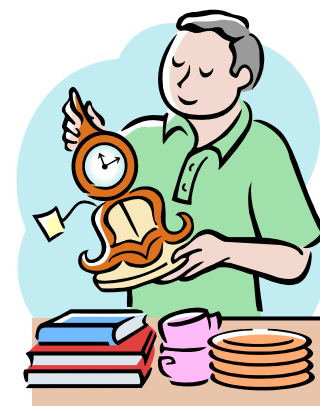
Observer Corp: LOOKING FOR OBSERVER CORPS VOLUNTEERS!!

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 government bodies. 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 experts. If you are interested in becoming an Observer, please email Kathleen Kelly @ dkbkmk01@swbell.net or call 314.533.3972.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOOK SALE !!

The book sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 9 with a rain date of October 16, in the Loop. We did get rained on last year. If you have books, you may bring them to Elise at 314.725.4829 or to Barbara at 314.962.2821.



HEALTH CARE – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PRESENTATION

Two of the League’s committees, Health Care and International Relations, are working together to bring members a presentation on obstetric fistula. We encourage all members to join us on **Saturday morning, October 9, at 10 a.m.** to hear Dr. Lewis Wall, a renowned authority on the subject. Dr. Wall, an ob-gyn at Washington University, is building a hospital in Danja, Niger. In addition to repairing fistulas, the hospital will also organize outreach efforts to promote maternal health and reduce deaths in childbirth.



Fistula has been labeled the forgotten international women’s health and human rights problem. To quote Nicholas Kristof in an op-ed in the *NY Times*: “This is a childbirth injury, often suffered by a teenager in Africa or Asia whose pelvis is not fully grown. She suffers obstructed labor, has no access to a C-section, and endures internal injuries that leave her incontinent.... She stinks. She becomes a pariah.”

The meeting will be held on the third floor of Cape Albeon, located at 3390 Lake Bend Drive, Valley Park, at 10 a.m. on October 9th. (Take Big Bend west to Dougherty Ferry, turn left, or take 270 to the Dougherty Ferry exit, follow Dougherty Ferry west past Big Bend and then left on Lake Bend.)

Contact Persons: Katharine Kilpatric (636.861.7148) Health Care Chair, Judith Smart (314.846.5927), International Relations Chair, or Lolly Wehrli (636.861.0287).

COMMITTEES AT WORK

HEALTH CARE



The Health Care committee is co-sponsoring the event on the 9th with the Internal Relations Committee and will not meet separately this month.

Katharine Kilpatric, Chair

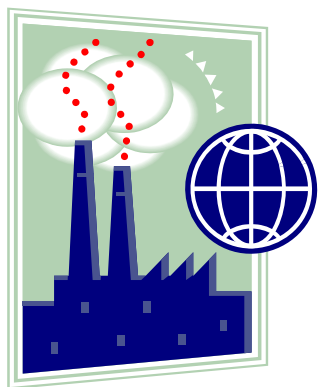
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee meeting will be co-sponsoring the event on October 9th with the Health Care Committee and will not meet separately this month.

Judith Smart, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE



The Environmental Quality Committee will be meeting on October 12, 2010, 5:30 pm at the League Office. We are focusing our study this year on Sustainability. See an introduction on Energy Conservation in the home by Kellye Markowski in this In League Reporter. Please forward questions, suggested topics or comments to the Committee. Environmental Quality is everyone's concern.

Mickey Croyle, Chair

UNIT MEETINGS – Topic “Ballot Initiatives”

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, October 9
10:30 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert 314.353.2000
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

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, October 12
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, 1st stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2nd block on left.

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, October 13
9:30 a.m. meeting

HOME OF DORIS BUZZELL

19 Lemp Rd
314.966.8425
Leader: Mary Long
314.849.7045

Big Bend to Forest (just west of Geyer across from St. Louis Community College). Keep right at the 1st right on Lemp, take a left at the “Y”, 2nd driveway on the right.

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, October 14
9:30 a.m. meeting
Noon salad lunch {please RSVP}

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314.434.5116
Leader: Mary Brown
636.532.0833

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

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, October 14
7:00 p.m.

LEAGUE OFFICE

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

FUTURE UNIT STUDY TOPICS

Nov.	Arms Control Update
Dec.	No Unit Meetings
Jan.	Program Planning; Local, State, National
Feb.	Education
March	Environmental Quality
April	Local Option

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER:

Arms control, which could be a very technical subject, will be presented in lay terms by your, our League arms control update committee at the November unit meetings.

Because being on a League study committee is so much fun, we are extending an invitation to join the committee which will have its first meeting on September, 16 at 5:30pm at my home, a light supper included. This committee will expire after the unit meetings in November which means committee membership is a very short term commitment. Just give me a call at 314.434.5116 or e-mail me at SLSHAY@sbcglobal.net No prior knowledge of the subject required.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER:

Reception for elected officials, taking the place of our Holiday Luncheon. Watch for information about date, time and location!!

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY:

First session of the **Civil Discourse in Uncivil Times** Workshops. Watch for information about date, time and location!!

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In memory of Marjorie Reinhart to LWV St. Louis from Brenda Banjak, Lori Francin, Linda Haman and Marion Stuvland

In memory of Becky Clausen's mother to LWV Information Service from Jeanne Morrel-Franklin & Bob Franklin.

In memory of Jean Dean to LWV St. Louis from Brenda Banjak.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Thanks to our faithful volunteers who gave their time to the League this month to help with mailing information for the voter guide, updating data bases, answering telephone calls, and assisting with mailing our League newsletters. Thanks go to: Agnes Garino (who I missed mentioning in the last newsletter), Brenda Banjak, Mary K. Brown, Marjorie Courtney, Clyde & Verna Creel, Kathleen Farrell, Katharine Kilpatric, Linda McDaniel, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, and Judith Smart. If for some reason your name does not appear here and you volunteered this month it was an oversight. Please call and let me know so you are acknowledged for your contribution to the League.

Julie Behrens, Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS – Anna Mennerick

Because there are so many busy Leaguers reporting on news, plans, events and issues this contribution will be more of a thought than a full reflection. As you work on both new and old projects, consider inviting someone to help and learn even if you don't need the help. As you bring others in, you are building the future of leadership for your project, the League or the entire community. In addition, there is much to be gained in the short term by having more hands on deck. Sharing the load now can help you feel less burdened and prepare the way for others to step in when you move on to other interests.

Things you should know about Prop A

(from a March, 2010 presentation to the St. Louis City Ways & Means Committee, shared by Sydell Shayer)

Proposition A is the ballot issue which will ask voters to consider dropping the earnings tax. The **Goal** of the St. Louis Revenue Structure is to maintain a diverse base that grows with the economy at a rate sufficient to maintain City Service.

The **City Earnings Tax** was imposed in 1959. It is an **Individual tax** of 1% of earnings of residents and non-resident of the City for work done for services performed in the City. This tax makes up 85% of the total earnings tax receipts. The rest is a **Corporate Tax** of 1% of net business profits from City businesses or business conducted in the City. The City Earnings tax growth rate for the last 10 year period is less than the property tax but more than sales taxes. It is the largest source of general revenue (\$138.4M in FY09) for City services. It is approximately equivalent to the total general fund costs of the Police Dept. To put it another way, it is equivalent to the costs of the fire department, corrections, refuse department, forestry div. trimming/weed & debris, park maintenance, building code enforcement and street and alley lighting.

If the earning tax was eliminated, the property tax and the sales tax are two possible replacements. The present city property tax rate is \$6.6465 per \$100 Assessed Valuation. An additional \$3.143 would be necessary to compensate for the lost earnings tax. This would increase the property tax more than is statutory allowable.

The current city sales tax rate including all the taxing entities is 8.241%. It would need to be increased by 4.121% or total 12.362% to replace the lost earnings tax. This would be the highest sales tax rate of all St. Louis area municipalities.

The proponents of Proposition A have offered no alternative. The opponents of Prop A see no good alternative to the earnings tax at the present time. The League opposes Prop. A.



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