



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST LOUIS

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St Louis, MO 63144

314.961.6869

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OCTOBER 2012

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IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

Must Register to Vote

or Change Voter Information by: **October 10, 2012**

Absentee Ballot:

Must Request by: 5pm on **October 31, 2012**

Vote in Person at Election Board: BY 5:00pm November 5, 2012

Return Voted Ballot: Before 7:00pm November 6, 2012

By Mail or in person

Important Numbers:

St. Louis City Election Board: 314.622.4336

St Louis County Election Board: 314.615.1800

Jefferson County Clerk: 636.797.5487

Franklin County Clerk 636.583.6355

St. Charles County Clerk 636.949.7550

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN VOTER ID REQUIRED

FEATURE ARTICLES

Important Election Information 1

Message from the Presidents 2

Advocacy 3-5

Our Environment 6

Term Limits Conf. 7

KMOV Hotline 11/6 7

UNIT MEETINGS 8

Committees 9

In Memory of Jo Sapp 10

Member News 11

Executive Director 11

CALENDAR of EVENTS

OCTOBER 2012

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------|----------|----------------------------|--|
| Tues. | Oct. 2 | 7:00pm | Environ. Quality Committee | League Office |
| Sat. | Oct. 6 | 8am-6pm | Term Limits Conference | UMSL see p. 7 |
| Week of Oct 9-13 | | | UNIT MEETINGS | See p. 8 |
| Fri. | Oct. 10 | 10:00am | International Relat. Comm | SLCL Headqtrts |
| Wed. | Oct. 17 | 4-5:30pm | Education Committee | League Office |
| Thurs. | Oct 19 | 1-3:00pm | Health Care Committee | Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church |
| Sat. | Oct. 27 | | Housing Authority Election | |

Message From the Presidents

VOTE FOR ALL THOSE WHO CAN'T: IT'S NOT A RIGHT--- IT'S A RESPONSIBILITY

Virginia Lasater, a 91 year old citizen of Tennessee, had voted and worked on political campaigns for over 70 years. But when she went to the Tennessee DMV to get a photo ID required by the 2011 Tennessee photo I.D. law to exercise her right to vote, she saw a line of over 100 people, no place to sit, and no assistance in sight from the DMV workers. She stood in that line as long as she could, but when she could wait no longer without sitting down to rest, she reluctantly gave up her place in line-- without getting her photo I.D.

As LWV US President Elisabeth MacNamara concluded in her September 12th testimony before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary: "Restrictions on the right to vote limit the role of citizens in our democracy and are simply unacceptable. So are the decisions that have turned special interests loose to dominate our elections and distort our democracy. We have a lot of work ahead."

Indeed we do! It is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day frenzy of election season in the League office. Voters are calling in record numbers to ask about redistricting, absentee ballots, required IDs for voting, and the Voters Guide. Individuals and groups are requesting League materials on registering to vote, reinstating the voting rights of individuals who have completed prison sentences and parole requirements, information on state wide ballot initiatives, and assurances that state issued photo IDs are NOT required in Missouri.

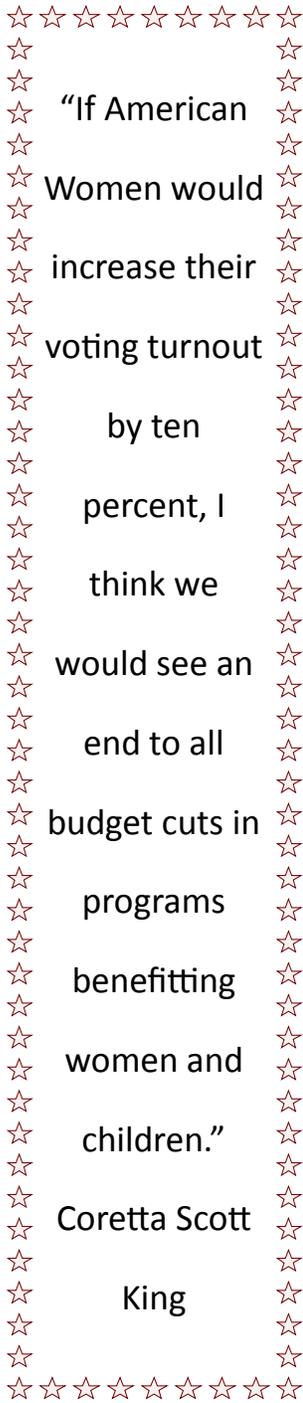
As League speakers go to numerous public events, they take stacks of these materials to meet the demand, answer questions and hear complaints. We're in a race to put out the Voters Guide so that voters can use it in absentee voting. Our legislative advocates are sending as many media messages as they can in support of the tobacco tax increase state wide ballot initiative and against the judicial appointment initiative. Six weeks to go until Election Day!

But in the midst of election season, sometimes we have a chance to step back and realize how important this work is. This happened to one of your co-presidents on last Saturday afternoon when she spoke at the Cross Cultural Engagement rally in Strauss Park across from the Fox Theatre in midtown St. Louis. The audience was largely made up of recent immigrants and members of our African American and Latin American communities. The League was given a warm reception with outbursts of applause when we talked about our efforts to fight voter suppression, register and inform voters, and advocate for campaign finance reform and more accessible elections. It gave us pause and inspired us to keep going.

Call the office and volunteer to help us meet the needs of our community. Answer the phones, make copies of materials, work on the Voters Guide, sign up to staff our Election Day hotlines at the office and at KMOV Channel 4. Get someone who shares our League values to join us by becoming a member. It is our privilege and our responsibility!

Linda McDaniel

Kathleen Farrell



Two important November 2012 Ballot Issues

There are two issues on the November ballot on which the League is actively advocating. One is Proposition B, the Tobacco tax increase which the League supports. The other is Constitution Amendment 3, changing the way certain judges are selected, which the League opposes.

On advocacy issues, League members play an important role. The process goes something like this. The state and local Leagues make its position known officially by either sending out a press release, having a press conference, submitting an op-ed piece to the media or writing a letter to the editor and working in coalition with like-minded groups. Then local League members are encouraged to spread the word as individuals without identifying themselves as League members.

Advocacy Opportunities on November Ballot Issues

We are asking members to write a letter in their own words to anyone of the local newspapers. Instructions are usually on the editorial page of the paper. The public is influenced by the number of articles they read on a subject, the quality of the material and how the issues will affect them. We encourage you to share with friends and relatives the facts as well as your opinion on the issue. It is important to know the facts when influencing others. Following is a brief description of the ballot issues and background information.

1. Proposition B, commonly known as the cigarette tax.

This proposition is a statutory change which made its way to the ballot box by initiative petition. Missouri has a 17 cent tax on a pack of cigarettes, lowest in the country. Prop B would increase a pack to 90 cents each and include additional tobacco products. With this increase Missouri will remain a low cigarette tax state. If passed, this proposal will create the Health and Education Trust Fund which is responsible for the distribution of the revenue gained. The law spells out how the money will be allocated and for what. All of the money must be kept separate from the general fund and may not be used to replace existing funding for the same or similar programs. A small portion of the money generated from this tax will be used to reduce and prevent tobacco use. The rest will go elementary, secondary, college, and university public school funding. The League supports this tax increase because it believes that public education is presently underfunded at all levels. It believes that state growth in expenditures should be placed in state statues, not the constitution. The League supports education to decrease the use of tobacco products, especially among young people for health purposes. The money is specifically directed to benefit the student in the classroom. Although the sales tax is a regressive tax, the League recognizes the sales tax as part of a total tax mix for the state. Lastly the tax meets many of the League's tax criteria. It is easy to understand, difficult to evade, easy to enforce and easy to collect.

2. Constitutional Amendment 3, sometimes referred to as the non-partisan court plan

The state League has made opposing Constitutional Amendment 3 on weakening the non-partisan court plan a top priority advocacy issue for this November 6 election. The non-partisan court plan is also referred to as the Missouri Plan. League members oppose Amendment 3 because the integrity of our court system is at stake. This information below is intended to help you in this effort.

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What is the non-partisan court plan?

The non-partisan court plan provides for the appointment of judges based on merit rather than on political affiliation. It applies to judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and other courts in the City of St Louis and Jackson, Clay, Platte, Green and St. Louis counties.

How are the judges selected?

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Under the court plan there are non-partisan judicial commissions which provide the governor a list of three names from which to make an appointment. The court plan spells out the composition of the judicial commissions.

What is the November ballot issue about?

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It is a constitutional amendment to change the composition of the Appellate Judicial Commission which selects the list of candidates for the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals from which the Governor makes his appointment. Presently, the commission is composed of three lawyers chosen by the Missouri Bar, three citizens appointed by the governor and the chief justice of the Supreme Court who is the chair. The judge oversees the administration aspects of the commission including keeping the public apprised of its actions. The judicial commission reviews applications and interviews the candidates before making its selection.

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Amendment 3 retains the seven member commission but eliminates the judge as a voting member of the commission. Instead the governor will appoint an additional member of the commission. The governor is no longer limited to appointing non-bar members and conceivably the entire commission could be composed of all lawyers. The appointed members will serve four year staggered terms enabling the governor to appoint two judges when he takes office and two during the middle of his term. The Supreme Court will appoint a former Supreme Court or Court of Appeals judge to serve as a nonvoting member of the commission. Amendment # 3 would increase the number of individuals that the Appellate Judicial Commission nominates for vacancies on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals from three to four.

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What is the history of the Missouri Plan?

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Prior to the passage of the non-partisan court plan in 1940, judges in Missouri were elected. Prompted by widespread abuse by the ward bosses and political machines and the political influence of campaign contributions in Kansas City and St. Louis the non-partisan court plan was placed on the ballot by initiative petition. The League advocated for its passage. The Missouri Plan eliminated the influence of political patronage as well as the time judges had to spend campaigning when they should have been deciding cases.

The Court Plan has been a model for other states and has been adopted in some form by at least thirty states.

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Why does the League oppose Amendment 3?

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The League believes that the non-partisan court plan is just, fair and impartial. It has kept politics out of the judicial system where it is used. The League would like to see it extended to other jurisdictions. The legislature has unsuccessfully attempted to eliminate the plan. Amendment 3 was initiated by the legislature which means it did not have to go through the initiative process. It is an attempt to incrementally weaken the non-partisan court plan by giving the governor more power in the selection of judges.

If passed, the governor, a partisan political person, will be able to appoint a majority of the judicial commission. He could appoint four justices in one term. He could do away with non-lawyer members of the commission. This weakens the democratic selection process. By disallowing a judge from being a voting member of the judicial commission, it deprives the commission of its most expert member. The League believes that this constitutional amendment is just the first step in dismantling a judicial system that has served Missouri well for the last sixty years.

Suggestions for League Member Action

The only way for the Missouri League to be effective in a statewide campaign is for each local League member to do his/her part.

1. The state League sent an op-ed piece to all print and broadcast media in the entire state. The last Missouri Voter contains the article. If it appeared in your paper, you can thank the paper.
2. If your local media does not carry it in the next couple of weeks, write your own and submit with a follow-up phone call.
3. Or write a personal letter to the editor.
4. Explain this amendment to members of groups to which you belong.

Summary of arguments against Amendment 3

(Adapted in part from- The Missouri Bar's publication "Your Vote Counts")

- The non-partisan court plan has kept money out of Missouri courts
- Changing the balance on the appellate judiciary commission would give political appointees a majority of control over the selection process.
- Applicants are judged based on their qualifications, not their political affiliations.
- The judge participant on the commission has the most experience and ability to evaluate a candidate's skills, knowledge and suitability for the bench.
- The plan is accountable to the people. Twelve months after the initial appointment, the public then votes to retain or remove the judge, promoting confidence and legitimacy in the judiciary. Only two judges have not been retained since the plan went into effect.
- The selection process is open to public scrutiny.
- The plan attracts quality applicants because they know they will be evaluated on merit, rather than political connections, political contributions or partisan politics.
- Merit selection relieves judges from campaigning, accepting campaign contributions and engaging in partisan politics. Judges that need to campaign rely on negative advertising and spend millions in their races. This evokes a negative image of the judiciary and implies that judgeships are for sale.
- Several past Supreme Court judges, republicans and democrats have publically announced their opposition to Amendment 3 and their support for the non-partisan court plan in its entirety.
- If the state passes amendment 3, it could have a negative effect on the other states that have incorporated the non-partisan court plan in their judicial system.
- Fair and impartial courts are important to ensure equality for every Missouri citizen. Removing political bias ensures that the public's rights remain protected.

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Global Warming: Insights from Particles

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I am the Higgs Boson, and I'm responsible for all the mass in the universe. I want to congratulate you for bringing me, the God particle, into view. I will only be here for a picosecond, so you're going to want to take notes.

It pains me to say it, but humanity is the silliest product of creation. Even the leptons say so, and you know how goofy leptons can be. We here in the Standard Model have worked meticulously to assure your existence. We've tweaked every constant, every force, just so, to give you a chance at life.

You, however, are blowing it.

You are overheating the earth. You should hear the complaints I get from matter about that. You've got the atoms moving around so fast they're pooped. My advice about global warming? Cool it.

Wars of religion stain your history from one millennium to the next, and they're all basically about the same, silly thing, the name of God. But the God particle came into consciousness without bloodshed. Your scientists debate my existence, attributes, and name in nice, courtly conferences. And nobody is calling for Mr. Higgs to be crucified.

That is the preferable way to do business, don't you think?

We here in the fundament, with a small handful of particles, fields and energies, keep the entire universe going. From Gladiolas to galactic clusters, we've got it covered.

You can't keep one lousy planet turning without grinding gears like a busted clutch. Get it together or we'll start again on a new planet where our great and endless gifts will be appreciated.

And please, whatever you do, don't make a bomb out of me. I'm the God particle; I have a reputation to protect.

I know you're the species that thinks, but you've got to lighten up about your ideologies. The universe is about 13 billion years old, you've been around a few million, and you just found me. There is more dark energy and matter, about which you know nothing, than everything you know about put together.

Yet some of you think you have it all figured out. There is one way to run a civilization, one way to construct an economy, one inflexible standard of justice. But how can you be so sure when you're still learning?

Speaking of dark matter, we've done that on purpose. We've only let you see thirty percent of the universe, and some of the gluons think that's already too much. Show me you can handle one, measly third of reality without burning, wasting and messing it up and we can talk about the rest.

Still, out of all uncounted rocks circling numberless stars in the vast universe, it was *you* who summoned me into existence. A tiny, improbable collection of carbon-based apes did that. The question is how?

You did it together, that's how. The quarreling tribes of the mud-ball you call home put aside their differences long enough to build a giant race track where my kind are free to roam and do tricks for you. There is virtually no limit to the good your silly species can do together, just as there is virtually no limit to the mischief you can do separately.

The biggest problem I've observed with humanity is that one of you always wants to be top quark. Some among you have a pathological need to dominate.

I feel your pain. We have a top quark here too. There are six of us, in fact, named Up, Down, Charm, Strange, Bottom, and Top. Top would love to run the cosmos all by itself, but we don't let it. The way we've set it up, when one of us gets too big for his britches he spontaneously explodes. And here's the beauty part. None of us can exist in isolation. Each quark is inevitably entwined with another. That's the way of reality.

THE CENTER FOR ETHICS IN PUBLIC LIFE PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL PUBLIC ETHICS CONFERENCE



Saturday, October 6, 2012 8am—6pm

University of Missouri - St. Louis'

[Millennium Student Center](#)

St. Louis, MO 63121

Registration: \$25 includes continental breakfast, lunch and reception

For more information, go to cepl.umsl.edu/events.html

Missouri voters overwhelmingly approved a lifetime limit of eight years in each of the State Senate and House of Representatives in 1992. Twenty years later this conference will explore the effects of term limits on the legislative process and state policy, and help develop strategies for legislative success in the new term-limited reality. The conference will bring together current and former Missouri legislators, state and local elected officials and administrators, lobbyists, advocates, political scientists, attorneys, legislative staff and the interested public to discuss term limits from a variety of perspectives and informed by experience and the best empirical scholarship on the subject. LWVSTL Co-President Linda McDaniel will moderate a discussion on the new term limited reality.

LWV St Louis Teams Up with KMOV Channel 4 for Election Day Hot Line

League members will answer voters' questions on KMOV TV's first Election Day Hotline on November 6th. Starting at 6:00 a.m. until the polls close, three teams of five League experts will provide voters with the help they need to exercise the right to vote. KMOV will promote this important service in every newscast beginning one week before the election. We are excited about the ability to add this service to our Election Day hotline service at the League office. Training is required for volunteers wanting to participate. So... sign up to help, get ready to do your homework and set those alarms on Election Day!



**COMING
ON
OCTOBER 6**

UNITS DISCUSS BALLOT ISSUES

Attend your unit meeting in October and bring a friend or two who wants information on the statewide, St. Louis City and St. Louis County ballot initiatives. There's a lot at stake on November 6th. Local control of the St. Louis Police Department and a smaller Board of Aldermen in St. Louis City, increased tobacco taxes, preservation of the non-partisan Missouri Court Plan, state health insurance exchanges mandated by the Affordable Health Care Act, increased funding of the St. Louis County Library and more! Where else can you get good quality information as well as the pros and cons of these initiatives along with the intelligent discussion of them, the hallmark of League unit meetings?

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CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, October 11th
9:30 am
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314.434.5116
Leader: Eve Golden
314.469.9985

ST LOUIS CITY

Saturday, October 13th
10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314.925.8251

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, October 9th
9:30 am

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Rd, Suite 104
Leader: Carol Portman
314.726.3269

WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, October 10th
9:30 am

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF WEBSTER GROVES UCC**

10 W. Lockwood , Webster Groves
Leader: K. Wentzien
314.961.0894 or 314.805.6950(cell)

The **Thursday Evening Unit** is no longer meeting. Members are invited to attend the meeting of another unit.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

We will definitely meet on Friday, October 12th at 10am, at the St Louis County Library Headquarters at Clayton Rd. and Lindbergh Blvd. We hope our topic - UN Women - will be of interest to many of you.

Judith Smart, IR Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the EQ Committee will be Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 pm at the League Office. We will be organizing for the 2012-2013 year. Dessert will be provided. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle (mcroyle@wustl.edu or 314-395-7876) with suggestions or questions. Anyone interested in natural resources, environmental issues: air, water, soil, land use, pollution prevention, food safety, sustainability, conservation are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Mickey Croyle, Chair



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE



Please join the Health Care Committee on Thursday, October 18 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church (11155 Clayton Rd. 63131). We will begin studying Medicaid Expansion as proposed in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. If you are interested, but cannot attend on 10/18, please contact Dianne about your interest. Phone: 314.439.9511 or email: dmodrell@sbcglobal.net.

Dianne Modrell, Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 17 at 4:00-5:30 pm at the League office. Anyone interested in working with this committee is welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed to assist students in the St. Louis Public Schools using the Vote 411 voters guide for our collaboration with Kids Voting Missouri. This is a great opportunity for the League to participate in civic engagement. To volunteer or for more information contact Marty Ott, martyotto6@yahoo.com, 314-434-0330.

Marty Ott, Chair



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JO SAPP 1944-2012

In the past 30 years, there have been few Boone County residents more active on more issues than Jo Sapp, remembered today as a tireless advocate who had a lasting impact on Columbia.

From the arts and culture to politics, Sapp sought to make a difference without seeking personal headlines, her husband, David Sapp, said of the woman he met in 1967 and married soon after. She had moved often as a child, following her father's military career, while David Sapp is a member of a Boone County family with generations of local roots.

"The reason was that she had moved around so much as a youngster, for a long time she didn't feel she had roots," Sapp said today in explaining his wife's myriad interests.

Jo Sapp died Saturday, September 8, 2012, after a long battle with cancer. She was 68.

Many of Sapp's actions and achievements would merit distinction on their own. Taken as a whole, they show a life of dedication to making Columbia better, friends and family members said today. She was extraordinary," said Don Stamper, former Boone County presiding commissioner. He met Sapp when he was chairman of the Boone County Democratic Party. "Her concern wasn't about winning; her concern was about the community. It is a great loss. She was one of those people who never really strived to be at the front, but she was always at the front."

Sapp was a member of the city's Comprehensive Plan Task Force, which has been working to update the vision for Columbia's future. She was president of the Daniel Boone Regional Library Board of Trustees during reconstruction of the main library in Columbia.

As chairwoman of the Columbia Commission of the Arts, she pushed the city to form the Commission on Cultural Affairs and give it staff. As a member of the board of Columbia Access Television, she helped advocate for more city support and staff for that operation as well. **Sapp was president of the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County and president of the state chapter as well, becoming an advocate for voting rights and opponent of voter ID laws.** A founding member of the Smart Growth Coalition, she had remained active and was working with coalition leadership to again make it an umbrella group for organizations rather than an individual membership body. She was a member of the Missouri Humanities Council and the Missouri Sunshine Coalition, a private organization of media and citizens dedicated to open government. "She was really energetic and active," said Jim Robertson, managing editor of the Tribune and former president of the sunshine coalition. "She was always challenging the process government used, and her concern was that the processes left out citizens."

Her entry into advocacy came when she was trying to stop a landfill near their home, David Sapp said. The city eventually chose a site northeast of Columbia near Brown Station Road. "She didn't seek the lime-light," David Sapp said. "She just wanted to express herself and speak up, and she was very good at it."

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com. This article was published on page A8 of the Monday, September 10, 2012 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Jo Sapp's activism praised: Advocate dies of cancer at 68."



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TRIBUTE

In honor of Julian Long from Betty Ann Gilbert to LWV St. Louis.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The November General Election is fast approaching and the League of Women Voters is in the thick of it. Thanks to our many volunteers who are doing so many extra tasks to ensure the voters have information available to them. There are many tasks and we are always looking for a few good men and women to meet our needs. Those worker bees this time around include Stephen Aylward, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marjorie Courtney, Brenda Ellis, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Debby Howard, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Marty Ott, Mary Beth Reynolds, Martha Rodriguez, Cameron Smith, Catherine Stenger, and K Wentzien. If you have a few extra free hours you can devote to the League we have many opportunities available for all skill levels.

Please contact Anna Mennerick at the League office 314.961.6869 to offer your services.



WOMEN'S

From the Executive Director's Desk - Anna Mennerick

The phones are ringing, the printers are printing, the volunteers are volunteering. Election Season is officially upon us. I would like to thank all of you who have been adding your time and talents to the many projects we have in motion. As you would imagine, many of our calls to the hotline are from people wanting absentee voting information. We also have received calls from people concerned about verifying their voter registration and wondering about the identification needed on election day. We can be sure that many St. Louis area citizens are energized and ready to be informed and participate in democracy. We've got work to do to make that possible!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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 and follow instructions.
3. Present your card to the cashier for scanning every time you shop at *Schnucks*.

The League benefits and it costs you nothing.

****Many League members are participating in this no cost fundraiser. We hope you will add your name to this list. We receive a check monthly and it requires no soliciting. There is no easier way for

