



IN LEAGUE REPORTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
314-961-6869
www.lwvstl.org
September, 2008

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

A copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed in 1776, was recently on display in St. Louis as part of a national tour encouraging young people to vote. I was asked to say a few words about the League of Women Voters during a reception at the Missouri History Museum. It was a golden opportunity to lay a little League history on them about the suffragettes 70 year struggle to give women the right to vote.

This included a description of the “Walkless Talkless Parade” which occurred in St. Louis in 1916 during the Democratic National Convention. 7,000 women in long white dresses with yellow sashes and carrying yellow umbrellas lined both sides of the route to the convention hall. They had tape across their mouths signifying that they had no voice in voting. The delegates had to run this gauntlet to get to their meetings.

We will be commemorating this event on September 6, 2008 with our Yellow Umbrella Parade for Voters Rights at St. Louis University, Boileau Hall. (See page 10 for more information.) This is a fund-raiser for our Information Service so please support it. Rumor is rampant that at least one husband has offered to supply the tape.

Doris

2008-2009 LWV ST. LOUIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR

Sat.	Aug. 23	9:30 AM	Women’s Equality Day Brunch		Crown Plaza
Sat/Sun	Aug. 23/24,		Festival of Nations		Tower Grove Park
Mon.	Sept. 1	6:00 AM	Tailgate Sale	pg. 2,9	UC Loop
Sat.	Sept. 6	10:00 AM	Yellow Umbrella Event	pg 10,11	St. Louis University
Tue.	Sept. 9	5:30 PM	Environmental Quality Committee	pg 3	League Office
Fri.	Sept. 12	10:00 AM	International Relations Committee	pg 4	St. Louis County Library
Wed.	Sept. 17	5:30 PM	Kickoff Meeting and Dinner	pg 8,9	Favazza’s Restaurant
Sat.	Sept. 20	9:00 AM	<i>Women Walk Before They Run</i>	pg 5,6	Shaw Park
Sat.	Sept. 20	9:30 AM	Education Committee	pg 3	League Office

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PEARLINA BOYD

We are delighted that Pearlina has accepted the position of Executive Director. She has a Master of Arts, Public Policy Administration and a graduate certificate, NGO/Nonprofit Organization Management & Leadership from the University-St. Louis. Her Bachelor of Science, Political Communications is from Missouri State University-Springfield. Her most recent experience has been as a Policy Analyst for Vision for Children at Risk, St. Louis. She has the computer skills we need as well as experience in public engagement, project management, communications, media relations, publications, grants and development.

She is out-going, enthusiastic and has an impressive list of honors and awards. She started August 18, 2008.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

These past few weeks in the office have been a real challenge as we searched for a new executive director, but the sky did not fall and things did get done. We have a lot of people to thank for that:

- Brenda Banjak took over as interim manager and her calm, professional manner was much appreciated.
- Julie Behrens was the “go to” person for all the things the rest of us did not know, plus a lot of extra pick-up and fill-in tasks.
- Lorrie Riley, our intern, was instrumental in getting the Voters’ Guide printed and Smart Voter launched along with preparations for the Yellow Umbrella Event.
- Members who volunteered their time to cover the office when needed: ever-faithful Mickey Hall, Betty Ann Gilbert, Sue Dellbringge, Mary Beth Reynolds, Nancy Bowser and Doris Buzzell. If I have missed anyone, please forgive.
- The search committee: Patti Walley, Betty Ann Gilbert, Jo Sapp, Janice Dahl and Doris Buzzell who had the enviable task of choosing from many very qualified applicants.

On behalf of the LWVSTL Board of Directors, the LWVMO Board of Directors and all the members of both Leagues I thank everyone who helped to keep the office humming. You did it and you did it well, and we are all grateful.

Doris Buzzell

TAILGATE SALE

The “League in the Loop” Tailgate Sale is just days away and we need help. Several of our regulars are not able to work this year due to personal commitments. So please call Barbara Elbrecht and tell her when you can help. She will have a reserved parking spot for you.

We set up at 6 a.m. and start selling at 8 a.m. and close down at 2 p.m. and start packing up the leftover items to take to the Goodwill. Call Barbara now and let her know when you will be there. She will appreciate hearing from you.

* * * * *

Local Event of Interest to Members

The American Association of University Women forum: "Financing Health Care: Issues and Options" Sept. 27, 2008 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road (at Woods Mill) 8:30-11:45 am.



Environmental Quality Committee

Last year as part of our focus on Global Climate Change, the Environmental Quality Committee worked with other organizations to encourage the mayors of communities throughout the county to sign on to the Clean Cities Initiative. We will continue to monitor what communities are doing to promote energy conservation and sustainability.

However, there are many things we can do as individuals which will make significant progress toward improving our environment and conserving natural resources. The EQ Committee will focus on one suggestion in each *In League Reporter*.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) are widely available and come in an increasing number of designs to meet our lighting needs. According to the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy website, www.energystar.gov, "If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars." That is impressive. The site provides extensive information on the available types of bulbs and fixtures. CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury. However, advances in technology are reducing the amount of mercury and since the generation of electricity is the main source of mercury in the environment, the benefit in electric savings outweighs the amount of mercury in the bulbs. You do have to exercise caution in handling the cleanup if a bulb should break. Guidance is provided at the Energy Star website. Used bulbs should not be put in trash or recycling bins. They should be taken to an appropriate center for recycling. Home Depot stores take the bulbs as does Lens Masters, 11309 Midland Blvd. (at Lindbergh) and D-Cal, 2909 Rock Hill Industrial Court.

Nancy Bowser, Chair



Education Committee

We hope you will join us at our next meeting, on Saturday, September 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the League office.

Speakers Bureau

LWV speakers in May included KATHY MARET for AHEPA53 senior housing group and KATHLEEN FARRELL for Grace Hill parenting group. At a presentation to about 30 AHEPA53 seniors in south county on July 10, LOIS BLISS was able to do voter registration for 7 residents, review absentee balloting procedures, distribute LWV "Register & Vote" brochures and samples of absentee ballot applications for both the August primary and November general elections. KATHLEEN FARRELL returned to Grace Hill on August 20 to speak to young people in their Transition to Work program. Our LWV members are letting these groups know about the League and our voter information services.

On July 14, KATHLEEN FARRELL outstandingly represented LWV on the panel for Black Women's Political Action Coalition at Harris Stowe. The panel topic was "Empowering Women in the Political Arena." With a large turnout of LWV members and Kathleen's descriptions of the LWV Information Service's goals, it was a successful community bridge-building evening (including socializing over dinner afterward).

As of now, the Speakers Bureau has 5 dates in September and 9 in October to fulfill our LWV Information Service goal of informing many voters. Thanks to all our great speakers.

Marjorie Courtney, Coordinator

The International Relations Committee

The International Relations Committee will resume its regular monthly meetings on Friday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. The group is open to all Saint Louis League members. You will be most welcome. Judith Smart is the Committee Chair.

This year's topic for study is Pakistan. In keeping with this, brief high-lights follow from a book by Yasmin Khan, "The Great Partition, the Making of India and Pakistan."

Yasmin Khan currently teaches politics in the Faculty of History and Social Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London. She has lived in Delhi, and has links to both India and Pakistan.

This book is about the end of the British Indian Empire, and the division of India into the two states of India and Pakistan from the South Asian landmass with growing antipathy toward one another. The book aims to show how disorderly and tumultuous the partitioning was, and how both states felt threatened because of changes, and about ambiguous meanings of Pakistan and India to those who were not sure of their status re: the government.

There appears to have been no general and widespread preparation of many of the people for the Partition. Those people who had access to radios and news pamphlets learned of the upcoming event. People who lived out in the countryside had no knowledge of the change until many months later. Butchery of many and forced relocation in the summer months may have been the first news for peasants and sharecroppers.

Many people and communities had unclear allegiances to India or Pakistan. Borders were changed and families were separated. Travelling was restricted and family separations painful. Refugees fleeing from harm or in confusion, flocked by the thousands to Pakistan, to such an extent that the very existence of Pakistan was endangered.

Space is necessarily too limited to further discuss Yasmin Khan's book, which I recommend for getting a feel of the development of Pakistan and India, and circumstances in determination of their borders.

--And please join the International Relations Committee to learn more about Pakistan, key State in world news.

Jeanne Morrel-Franklin, IR committee member

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New members:

Elaine Kidwell
4249 Castleman Ave.

Nancy Miller
Manchester MO 63088-2453

Shirley Shaw
St. Louis MO 63122-4480

Shelley Spasser
122 Topton Way
St. Louis MO 63105-3636

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In honor of Micki Hoffman from Mary Parker to LWV Information Service.

In memory of Hal Flowers, who graciously supported League efforts from Mary Domahidy to LWV St. Louis.

LWV of Missouri Seeking Board & Officer Nominees

The League of Women Voters of Missouri is looking for great leaders! It is time for anyone who would like to be a nominee to the League of Women Voters of Missouri Board of Directors to get their name into contention. The Nominating Committee is calling for nominees and the LWV of St. Louis would like to know if you are interested in serving on our behalf. Our great St. Louis representatives currently are Debbie Howard and Betty Ann Gilbert! If you would like to be considered for a position on the Missouri Board, call the office at 314-961-6869, or contact Margie Richcreek of KC/JCP, chairperson of the Nominating Committee at mogie10@juno.com.



LWV Board Positions Are Open – Are You Interested?

The women and men who are the Board of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis take on active portfolios. What does that mean? It means that being a Board member is not about boring meetings. It's about taking on a portfolio that means something to you!...Working with other smart dedicated men and women in the League on common interests...And making progress on behalf of educating and empowering citizens to get involved in government.

There are too many portfolios to list, but some are voter service, education, environment, and housing. They are critical, pertinent issues that impact the communities in the greater St. Louis community. And they are what St. Louis and the League are about.

Some of these portfolios are open. And they are critical for the St. Louis League. We are looking for League members to take on the Board portfolios of *Legislative Action*, *Voter Service*, *FOCUS liaison*, *Volunteer Coordinator*.

Call the LWV Office at 314-961-6869 if you are interested. Your St. Louis League needs you

League to Participate Again In Sue Shear Institute's "Women Walk Before They Run"

Again this year, the League of Women Voters will put together a group to participate in the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life's event called *Women Walk Before They Run* on September 20th.

Last year, 12 League members walked carrying a LWV-STL banner, and this year we are hoping for even more members to join our ranks in support of this great cause.

The event in 2008 will be hosted by Clayton Mayor Linda Goldstein in Shaw Park on Saturday, Sept. 20th.

The event encourages women to learn from others who have embraced public service in the casual environment of walking and talking at the same time. The proceeds of the event will underwrite the Institute's 21st Century Leadership academy, which prepares college women for careers in the public sector.

Where: Clayton's Shaw Park

When: September 20, 2008 9:00 a.m. Start

Price: \$20 to register; \$15 for youths (ages 7-18)

Last fall, over 100 elected officials and community members participated in the first annual event. This year, they are hoping for an even larger turnout!

League members who would like to participate should register through either the online form at <http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/forms/programfrm.html> or by printing and mailing a registration form available on the site or through the LWV-STL office. If you are a League member and would like to walk with our group, please let the office know you will be participating so we can gather at the start of the event.

“All Hands on Deck”!

Hi! I’m Helen Louise Herndon, the new Coordinator of Candidate Forums Committee. We are in an exciting presidential election year – exciting particularly due to its historic precedents. We have seen a woman run for the highest office in the land as well as a person of color (bi-racial). The fact that a person of color will win the nomination for one party only enhances the historicity of the present moment in which we serve in a nonpartisan organization. This year is also marked by the fact it represents the longest period of campaigning this nation has experienced thus far and perhaps the most money spent. Besides the election of our President, 2008 is replete with countless elections for important offices nationally, statewide, and locally.

All of this is a reminder of the vital service the League of Women Voters-St. Louis offers the citizens and voters of our region. One of those vital services is conducting and moderating forums where candidates express their intentions and citizens get answers to some of their major concerns. In a democracy, this is an invaluable service.

This promises to be a very busy year for the League of Women Voters as it relates to requests for forums and debates. To borrow from our esteemed U.S. Navy, permit me to say: “All hands on deck.” We will need many willing hands to provide this priceless service to our communities.

If you are willing to volunteer as a moderator, a timer, or one who hands out and collects cards with questions, please contact me, Helen Louise Herndon, at Hloherndon@cs.com. Provide your name, telephone number, address, e-mail address, and your preference as to responsibility, e.g. moderator, timer, etc. If you are willing to perform more than one function, so much the better. The more “hands on deck,” the less work any one person will be called upon to do. Training will be provided if and as needed. I look forward to hearing from many of you.

Vote Informed on November 4th

**With One Stop Shopping for
Election Information**

On the web at:

<http://www.lwvstl.org> or <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Available in print format – Call or write for your copy.

Reliable, free information on candidates and issues
from a trusted, nonpartisan group.

**The League of Women Voters
of St. Louis Information Service**
Promoting an Educated & Empowered Electorate

8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144 Phone (314) 961-6869

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

Contact the St. Louis County Elections Office 314-615-1840

www.StLouisco.com/elections/judges.html

LWVUS 2008 National Convention Postscript

A postscript to the reports you have received from the LWV-STL delegates on their activities at the League's national convention involves the roll call of states. Those of you who have attended national conventions know that each state's president/representative gets one minute to highlight that state's accomplishments since the last convention. A monumental task if there ever were one. The four of us from STL agreed that one of the best reports this year was from the PA president, Andrea Mulrine. She read an editorial from a PA newspaper which had a wonderful description of Leaguers as governmental watchdogs and the lawsuit they are involved in. An abbreviated form of the editorial follows:

Printed in the Centre Daily Times (www.centredaily.com)

The commonly held image of the League of Women Voters — and please forgive us for any unintended ageism or sexism here — seems to have been that of a group of genteel elderly ladies, properly sipping tea while stuffing candidate questionnaires into envelopes and politely urging their neighbors to do their patriotic duty. Granny in the old Warner Bros. “Tweety Bird” cartoons with, perhaps, a neatly crocheted flag pin on her cardigan, might have been a typical member.

If that were ever accurate, it certainly isn't today. Think Granny on steroids. Think hatchet-wielding Carrie Nation breaking down the doors, not of Prohibition-era speakeasies seeking temperance, but of smoke-filled rooms in the state capital, demanding political and governmental reform.

This is the new League of Women Voters, energized — as well it should be — by outrage over the General Assembly's infamous self granted pay raise of '05 and other nefarious activities. Its latest mailing to a political figure is not a question about Social Security reform, but a lawsuit, and it was filed against no less a figure than Ralph J. Cappy, former chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.... But, acquiescing, perhaps, to the credibility and moral authority the league possesses, Cappy issued his statement immediately after news of the suit hit the streets. Saloon keepers, after all, ignored Carrie Nation at their own risk. “I do not understand why a respected organization such as the League of Women Voters would associate itself with this irresponsible lawsuit, especially since the charges consist of falsehoods, speculation and innuendo,” Cappy said in his mass-circulated response.

But the league is sticking to its ax. Members aren't hallucinating — there was nothing strange in the sugar cubes they stirred into their tea — nor did a little birdie tell them about the alleged shady dealing. They heard about it, according to the 17- page document filed in federal court in Harrisburg, from an unnamed state senator....

If the charges contained in the league's lawsuit are true, state government in Harrisburg — the most corrupt in the United States, according to Tim Potts of the reform-advocacy group Democracy Rising Pennsylvania — is even more corrupt than we thought, and who would have thought that to be possible?... Misplaced outrage or fact-based moral crusade? It will be up to the courts to decide. Thankfully and fortuitously, it will be the federal, not state appellate courts, that will make the final determination.

Carrie A. Nation said she was called to save America from a drunkard's fate. Maybe — just maybe — her modern-day counterparts in the League of Women Voters can reform Harrisburg.

Gentle ladies, sharpen your hatchets.

Intro by Judith Smart (STL) with editorial provided by Mary A. Verdelli (PA)



September LWV Kick-off



How Healthy is our Healthcare System?

Five Myths Concerning Health Care in the US

Join League members and bring your friends to gain information on this timely subject.

When: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - dinner at 5:30, speaker at 7:00, w/question period afterward

Where: FAVAZZA'S

5201 Southwest Avenue
(314) 772-4454

Saint Louis, Missouri 63139
www.favazzas.com

Cost: \$24 reservations to LWV office by Monday, September 15 at noon

Speaker: Judy Dasovich is an Internal Medicine physician who is currently working exclusively at the only free clinic in the Springfield, Missouri area. She started volunteering there ten years ago and is now the Volunteer Medical Director. Since receiving her medical degree in 1981, she has witnessed the many changes in the American medical system and sees American medicine becoming increasingly profit centered instead of patient centered.

Dr. Dasovich is a member of the national group Physicians for a National Health Plan (www.PNHP.org) which seeks profound structural reform that will put the patient at the center of the medical process. For twenty years, they have been advocates for a single payer system of finance, also known as Medicare for all.

Dr. Dasovich comes highly recommended to us after speaking at the LWV Missouri State Council meeting this spring.

Call the LWV office for directions or carpool information at 314-961-6869.

Sign me up for the LWV kick-off on Wednesday, September 17. I want to learn more about Single Payer healthcare!

_____ Reservations @ \$24 each for dinner, dessert and discussion.

**Checks to LWV office: League of Women Voters of St. Louis
8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104
St Louis, MO 63144**



Monday, Sept. 1st (Labor Day)
@ the Loop

Setup: 6 a.m

Starts: 8 a.m

Ends: 3 p.m.



Annual Tailgate Sale

*Donate items to sell in the
LWV Booth
Volunteer your time to
help!
Come shop for Treasures!*

Tell your friends,
neighbors, churches and
organizations to
buy a booth.

\$30 each

League of Women Voters of St. Louis –Promoting an Educated & Empowered Electorate
314-961-6869 or lwvmo@yahoo.com CALL or EMAIL to reserve your booth space!

YELLOW UMBRELLA EVENT SEPTEMBER 6 HONORS SUFFRAGISTS

The League of Women Voters of St. Louis will observe the 92nd anniversary of a landmark protest in the women's suffrage movement with a parade and rally on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Boileau Hall, Vandeventer and Laclede avenues, on the St. Louis University campus.

The event will celebrate the "Walkless, Talkless Parade of 1916," when 7,000 St. Louis women, wearing white dresses with yellow sashes and carrying yellow umbrellas, lined the streets leading to the Democratic National Convention in St. Louis and stood silent as delegates walked past them to the hall – silent, because the women had their mouths taped shut. It was a turning point in women's struggle to gain the vote, which finally came in 1919 when Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote.

Known as the Yellow Umbrella Event, the Sept. 6 program will feature half-mile and full-mile parades at 10:30 a. m., followed by an 11:30 a. m. rally with talks by St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley; Vivian Eveloff, founder and director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, and Sandy Diamond, executive director of Kids Voting Missouri, a senior high school and college student organization on some 40 area campuses. The panel will focus on the value of having every eligible American vote in every election.

The League will also offer voter registration at the event.

The program is sponsored by The Ben & Jerry's Foundation and The League of Women Voters Information Service. Proceeds benefit voter service projects of Kids Voting Missouri and the League's Information Service.

Participants can pre-register for the Yellow Umbrella event by Sept. 3 for \$25, or register at the program for \$30, starting at 9 a.m. Advance and on-site student registration is \$10 with a student identification card. Businesses can register up to 10 participants for \$350. Advance registration forms are available from www.lwvstlorg or by calling 314-961-6869. Registrations should be mailed to League of Women Voters Information Service, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. Checks should be made payable to LWVIS.

The LWVIS is the voter education arm of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis. It is a non-partisan organization working to educate, inform and empower voters in the Greater St. Louis area.

YELLOW UMBRELLA EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Organization Represented (if any) _____

Amount \$ _____ Make checks payable to LWVIS

Mail to: League of Women Voters, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

YELLOW UMBRELLA EVENT

THE WALK-LESS TALK-LESS PARADE FOR VOTERS RIGHTS...IN 2008!



A re-creation of the Walk-less, Talk-less Parade of 1916, commemorating the fight for women to get the right to vote!

Wear white and get a yellow t-shirt. In this important election year, let St. Louis know it's important for everyone – men and women, young and old – to VOTE!

**Sponsored by The Ben & Jerry's Foundation
The League of Women Voters Information Service
In partnership with Kids Voting Missouri**

Date: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008

Time: 10:30 a.m. Parade

Registration Starts: 9:00 a.m.

Speakers: 11:30 a.m.

**Place: St. Louis University, Boileau Hall @
Vandeventer & Laclede**

**Pre-register: \$25/Participate and get a free
yellow t-shirt**

Kids Voting Missouri Registrants walk FREE!

**Businesses: \$350/up to 10 Participants Walk
and get free yellow t-shirts**

**On-Site Registration: \$30 and get a t-shirt
(while they last)**

Parade: 1/2 mile and 1-mile route

Registration form @ www.lwvstl.org

Voter Registration will be on-site!

Contact person: 314-961-6869

***League of Women Voters
Information Service***

8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144

Phone: 314-961-6869
E-mail: lwvmo@yahoo.com
www.lwvstl.org

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