



# **WHERE THE LEAGUE STANDS – IMPORTANT ISSUES!!!**

## **EARNINGS TAX**

**Retaining the earnings tax in the City of St. Louis is the number one League local action priority**

In April, St. Louis City voters will decide whether they want to retain or eliminate the city's earnings tax. The League supports retention because it provides over one third of the city's income. That is a big chunk of money for the city to lose. Programs and services would be drastically curtailed with this revenue. The only other options that could provide enough income to replace the earnings tax would be an increase in the sales tax or the property tax. Both would have to be extremely high to replace a lost earnings tax and would be an extreme burden on the residents of the city. Presently, the earnings tax is paid by all who work in the city whether they live there or not.

The League is working in coalition with a variety of other organizations to ensure success in the April election. Although this is a city issue, the entire League has chosen this as a priority. There are many volunteer opportunities and we are preparing to take action when the right moment occurs. So please look at the list below and let the League office know where you can help.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Work the phone bank

Distribute literature

Put up a lawn sign

Write a letter to the editor to any newspaper distributed in the city

Educate your friends and neighbors

Give a talk through the League Speakers Bureau

Attend a rally

Work the polls

### ***LEAGUE CO-SPONSORING EARNINGS TAX FORUM***

On February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Old Post Office in St. Louis, the League will be co-sponsoring a forum with the Downtown St. Louis Residents Association from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Among the participants are Mayor Francis Slay and Comptroller Darlene Green. Plans are still underway, so mark your calendars!

## **ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY: Advocacy on the national level**

The St. Louis League just sent a request to the League of Women Voters of the United States to include some action at the national level on abolition of the death penalty for the coming League year. The LWVUS has had a position for abolition since 2006 and we think it is about time that the League publicized its stance and work on the issue when the opportunity arises. This action was taken because the LWVUS asked for suggestions for issue priorities.

## **ISSUES FOR UPCOMING STATE LEGISLATURE**

The Missouri state League has not come up with a legislative agenda for this new legislative session. However, I have looked at some of the bills already filed and think the following are of League interest.

**SJR 1** – a proposed constitutional amendment to replace all taxes on income with a sales tax and a use tax

**SJR 3** – a constitutional amendment to require the Attorney General to seek appropriate relief against action of the Federal Government when directed by the Governor, General Assembly or petition of the voters

**HB 26** – change voter authorization on city earnings tax from 5-20 years

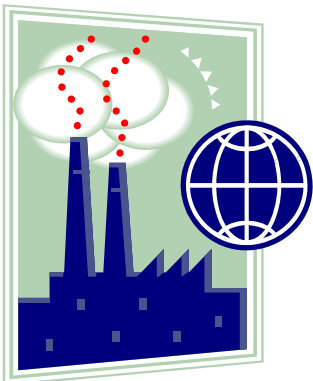
**HB 28** – no pharmacy can be required to perform, assist, recommend, refer to, or participate in any act or service resulting in an abortion and will be immune from liability for refusing to do so.

**HB 39** - calls on the Attorney General to file an independent lawsuit or join 20 state Attorney Generals in their lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the federal healthcare reform legislation.

**HB 52** – a bill to require the Department of Revenue to establish necessary rules to implement the compliance provision of the multi-state Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (collect sales tax on out of state catalogue purchases)

**SB 15** - allows full deductibility of federal taxes for state income tax purposes

*Advocacy Reporter  
Sydell Shayer*



## **THE ENVIRONMENT: SUSTAINABILITY**

### **St Louis will be testing a new Sustainability performance Tool**

St. Louis is part of the nine cities that will be Beta Testing a new sustainability performance tool called STAR Community Index. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, which is developing STAR, said it will transform and accelerate the local sustainability movement by offering cities and counties a

roadmap for advancing climate protection, economic recovery and equal opportunities for all residents within a community.

The following nine cities and counties that were selected as STAR “Beta Communities” are Atlanta, GA, Boulder, CO, Chattanooga, TN, Cranberry Township, PA, Des Moines, IA, District of Columbia, King County, WA, New York, NY and St. Louis, MO. **“These nine early-adopter cities, along with many other communities across the nation, are already taking the lead on energy efficiency and sustainable development in their own right and as such, they are the perfect candidates to advance the goals and mission of STAR, which is to build healthier, inclusive and more livable communities,”** said Martin Chávez, Executive Director, ICLEI USA and three-term mayor of Albuquerque, NM. The Beta Communities will receive technical support and resources to position them to become early adopters of STAR and accelerate their various sustainability efforts.

The STAR online platform will provide users with a variety of features to enable quick uptake of the STAR Community Index. The STAR Community Index is being developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA) in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), National League of Cities (NLC), and Center for American Progress (CAP). The platform will include features to enable local governments to analyze, map, and manage all their sustainability data in one place, and to present that information to internal managers, executives, and the public using a sustainability dashboard that interfaces with a city’s or county’s website. The tool will also facilitate data sharing with ICLEI for the verification and certification of a community under the forthcoming STAR rating system.

## **THE LEAGUE AT WORK**

### **VOTER REGISTRATION**

In 2010 LWVIS was present at 39 Naturalization Ceremonies to register 1,331 new American citizens to vote. Most of the ceremonies are held at the Thomas Eagleton Courthouse; special naturalization ceremonies were held at the Old Courthouse, Parkway South High School, Harris-Stowe State University, and the U. S. Grant Historical Site. The new citizens come from all over Missouri. We sent voter registration forms to 37 Missouri Counties. We register approximately fifty per cent of the new citizens.



LWVIS tries to accommodate all requests for voter registration. The LWV sign was visible at Harrah’s Casino, St. Louis Public Schools Open House, YWCA/LWV 90<sup>th</sup> celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, Festival of Nations, Mehlville School District, Kirkwood School District, Nerinx Hall, and Operation Youth Build. The latter was a class in learning the importance of voting and registering the students to vote. We often don’t register very many individuals at these sites, but we give lots of information.

Willing to take the time to get to the sites, which often is longer than it takes to register, were Joan Botwinick, Stefany Brot, Evelyn Buretta, Lori Calcaterra, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Marj Courtney, Pam DeVoe, Susan Fluegel, Joe Kleeman, Cindy Mitchell, Carol Portman, Mary Beth Reynolds, Judith Smart, Carol Teig, Billie Teneau, and K Wentzien.

*Carol Portman, Chair*

## **WINTER WONDERLAND**

Winter Wonderland had a lot of bad weather including high winds that blew down some of the displays, and such cold temperatures they could not ask volunteers to collect on one night.

Our night was great—in the mid 30s with no wind or rain. Our great bunch of volunteers had lots of fun collecting from the over 700 cars that came through, plus greeting all the carriages filled with happy adults and excited children.

Many thanks to Marj Courney, Elise and Denny Joerger, Billie Teneau, Allen Ranford, Mary Long, Pat Jones, Kathleen Farrell, Doris Buzzell, Susan Fluegel and Catherine Stenger. With your help we received a check from the County Parks and Recreation for \$500. Happy New Year to you all—see you in December 2011!

*Barbara Elbrecht, Chair*

## **LOIS BLISS HONORED with West County Journal Award**

The West County Journal started 2011 by honoring several people who are committed to “enriching their communities” as professionals and volunteers. Lois’ dedication to the Kirkwood Library and the League of Women Voters are chronicled in the article. Her 51 year involvement with the League includes serving as president of the Kirkwood League and as a member of the League’s state board. One of her most recent contributions to her community was as a volunteer on the U S Department of Justice City/Community Mediation Team, created in the aftermath of the Kirkwood City Hall shootings.



The comment Lois made about her work with the Mediation Team dovetails with the current Civility project: "That was an opportunity to learn how people really felt and what their perceptions were, to build relationships, trust and new avenues of communication," Bliss said.

Lois continues to be role model for individuals wishing to serve their communities. We are grateful Lois chose the League years ago and continues to inspire us through who she is and her service to the St. Louis community.

## **COMMITTEES AT WORK**

### **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE**



The League of Women Voters Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at Cape Albeon at 10:30 a.m. in the private dining room. We will discuss “Health Care Justice” in line with the League’s position on Health Care. 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.

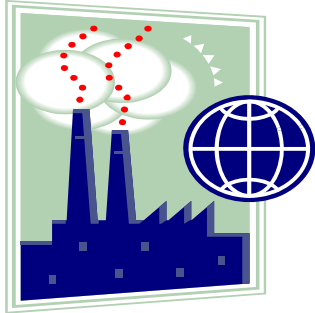
*Katharine Kilpatric, Chair*

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will meet on Friday, February 11 at 10 a.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. Our study topic is China. All are welcome to attend.



*Judith Smart, Chair*



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Committee will be Tuesday, February 8th at the League Office at 5:30 p.m. Dessert will be provided. The Topic for this year is Environmental Quality and Sustainability. Contact EQ Chair, Mickey Croyle ([mcroyle@wustl.edu](mailto:mcroyle@wustl.edu) or (314.395.7876) with suggestions or questions. We will continue to work on preparing for the March Unit Meeting and planning a General Meeting.

*Mickey Croyle, Chair*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will meet on Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 am at the League office. Beginning in February the committee will continue to meet on the first Saturday of each month through June. League members are always welcomed to attend these meetings.



*Marty Ott, chair*  
314-434-0330  
[martyott06@yahoo.com](mailto:martyott06@yahoo.com)

## UNIT MEETINGS

February units will focus in on a frank discussion among League members about how we prepare for and do advocacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our local, state, and national positions on issues are carefully considered and crafted through the consensus process. Translating the position into effective action has become increasingly challenging as both legislators (by which we mean your local city council, as well as the state legislators and Congress) reflect popular polarization and dissatisfaction with government.

So what to do? Our civil discourse training for elected officials certainly is a piece of the puzzle. Getting acquainted personally with legislators, as we began with our holiday lunch, is helpful. But how should our League approach advocacy for our issues?

At February units Nancy Thompson, Legislative Action chair, will lead members through a facilitated discussion about these topics and whatever members would like to discuss about the Missouri Legislature's expected top issues this session, including:



- Open enrollment of students from unaccredited school districts
- Right to work repeal
- Replacing the income tax with a higher sales tax, known as the fair tax proposal
- How to balance the budget
- Redistricting, taking into account Missouri's loss of one Congressional representative

**UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON**

Tuesday, Feb. 8  
 9:15 a.m. coffee  
 9:30 a.m. meeting

**NEW LOCATION !!**

155 N Hanley  
 314.725.4829  
 Leader: Carol Portman  
 314.726.3269

Directions: Southwest corner Hanley and Pershing. If no space in front of building, park on Pershing

**WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD**

Wednesday, Feb 9  
 9:30 a.m. meeting

**HOME OF PATSY FARRIOR**

513 Meadow Creek Ln  
 314.821.0197  
 Leader: Mary Long,  
 314.849.7045

.Directions: Manchester to Woodlawn. North on Woodlawn to 3<sup>rd</sup> street on right (Meadow Creek Ln). Third house on left with red mailbox.

**CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR**

Thursday Feb. 10  
 9:30 a.m. meeting  
 Noon salad lunch

**HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER**

709 Champeix Lane  
 314.434.5116  
 Leader: Mary Brown 636.532.0833

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

**EVENING UNIT**

Thursday, Feb. 10  
 7:00 p.m.

**LEAGUE OFFICE**

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

## ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, Feb. 12  
10:30 a.m.

## TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington  
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert  
314.925.8251

Hot tea and coffee and some valentine treats. Our meeting is from 10:30 till noon at Trinity Episcopal Church at the corner of Washington and Euclid in the Central West End. If you need more information or a ride, call Kathleen Farrell at 314.773.2876.

### ***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](mailto:dkbkmk01@swbell.net) or call 314.533.3972.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members:

Mary A. Bruemmer

Patricia Gray

Annette P. Heller

A. Laverne Howard

Catherine Stenger

## TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

In honor of Sydell Shayer's birthday from Mary Ellen Brucker to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Sydell & Larry Shayer, Anna Mennerick, Julie Behrens, Esther & Jim Clark, and Linda McDaniel from Kathleen Farrell to LWV St. Louis.

In honor of Sydell and Larry Shayer's special birthdays from Agnes Garino and Irv & Vivian Siegel to LWV Information Service.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Welcome to 2011. As the new year starts we are busy with the Theatre Party, voter registration, candidate forums for the spring elections, voter guide for the spring election, and fundraising to help support our activities. Thanks to those who assisted the office staff with various tasks. Since our last edition we want to thank Brenda Banjak, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Debby Howard, Pat Jones, Katharine Kilpatric, Linda McDaniel, Tom Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Marty Ott, Carol Portman, Sydell Shayer, Nancy Thompson, Patti Walley, and Lolly Wehrli.

## CIVILITY PROJECT

The first event of the Civility Project will be on February 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:30. If you are interested in attending, please call the League office as soon as possible.

**Controversial  
Civil Issues  
Conversations**

**February 5<sup>th</sup>  
& February 26<sup>th</sup>  
9:30am – 12:30pm**

The League of Women Voters Information Service and  
Washington University School of Law present:

### *How to Have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times*

**Moderator: C.J. Larkin, Senior Lecturer  
Washington University Law School**

These workshops will prepare elected officials in St. Louis City and St. Louis County to engage in and promote thoughtful, civil conversations about controversial issues in our communities.

The demonstration issue will be the *Impact of Immigration* on all levels of government. Cost: \$40 for both sessions, including materials and refreshments

Call the League office for Reservation and Information  
314.961.6869

## Volunteer Coordinator Needed



The St. Louis League is looking for an individual interested in working approximately 5-10 hours a month. The ***Volunteer Coordinator*** position becomes more important as the League expands activities such as the Voters Guide. Interested persons should contact Anna at the League office.

WWW.MARYKAY.COM/JANICEDAHL ♦ JANICEDAHL@MARYKAY.COM

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**SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION**

## YOUR AD HERE

Entrepreneurial League Members can advertise products or services here. Ad revenue helps underwrite this vital source of member communication.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS – Anna Mennerick**

There are more elections coming are you ready? . . . . . Well of course you are ready, you are a League Member, right? If you have moved recently, The Board of Elections needs your current address. If you will be out of town make sure to request an absentee ballot. If you are passionate about a local, state or national issue you need to know about pending legislation and which candidates are informed and ready to make choices consistent with your views. Are your friends and family registered to vote? What about that co-worker or neighbor whose bumper stickers make you crazy? Ask her if she is registered to vote. Remind him that his children at college need to register at school or request absentee ballots.

Don't forget to read the League/ Post-Dispatch Voters Guide and become informed about what each candidate has to offer. If you have an extra hour, pick up some voter's guides and distribute them to the people you see each week. A couple of hours and you can help produce the guide or make needed deliveries beyond your circle. Attend a candidate or issue forum or take the extra step and volunteer to help the League provide these valuable services to our community. Ready or not, here they come.

### **Join Us for “Shadowlands” the Annual Theatre Party Event, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

The show will be on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Fontbonne University Theatre, 6800 Wydown Blvd. and will begin with a reception at 12:30 p.m. followed by the performance at 2:00 p.m. The venue at Fontbonne will provide a good seat for everyone and parking is located right next to the Fine Arts Building.

Choose the sponsorship level best for you and send the reservation sheet below to: League of Women Voters Information Service, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. If you choose to designate your gift to the tax deductible Information Service, make your check out to LWVIS. If you choose to support the League, make your check payable to the LWV St. Louis.

***Sponsorship Levels:***

**Gold:** \$500.00 (6 tickets)

**Silver:** \$300.00 (4 tickets)

**Bronze:** \$150.00 (2 tickets)

**Single Ticket:** \$55.00

**Yes, I will be a sponsor of the Theatre Party on February 5<sup>th</sup>!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship level: \_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address to send this receipt to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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