



IN LEAGUE REPORTER – MAY 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:

Spring is in the air, although actually it seems a little more like summer. Spring of course means annual meeting time for the League. It is time to take consideration of the past year, elect new officers and look toward the upcoming League year. You have read and heard a lot about the St. Louis Annual Meeting May 8th. I look forward to seeing you there.

The League of Women Voters of the United States will have its national convention June 11 – 15 in Atlanta, Georgia. The convention is held every two years and has around 2,000 in attendance with delegates from all local and state Leagues. The delegates from St. Louis will be Kathleen Farrell, Sydell Shayer and Nancy Miller. I will be attending but will not be a voting delegate since I will be chairing the Oversight Committee at the Convention. This committee has the responsibility of conducting the candidate forums for candidates for Officers and Directors and the Nominating Committee.

The national convention is a very exciting meeting with the opportunity to talk to League members across the nation. Learn that you are not the only having a problem with “you name it”. Learn new ideas, what and others are doing successfully and from the several workshops conducted by the national staff, hear wonderful speakers, but we do not who yet, due to scheduling. It is a fascinating time to observe and learn parliamentary procedures as delegates work and strategize to get their favorite policy issue adopted. Fortunately we do not have to deal with cloture. Delegates have many, many caucuses to prompt their concerns, from policy issues, to organization and procedures of the League, financial/budget issues and more. Some of the issues that may be before the convention include Education (role of the federal government), Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform, Safe Drilling and Mining. Department of Peace, Marriage Equality, Health Care, Campaign Finance Reform, Selection of the President, Regulation of Financial Institutions, Privatization of Public Service, Citizens Right to Vote, Election Systems, Civic Education and Arms Control.

Watch In League for an announcement for a report back about Convention some time in July. Also come with your questions to the Annual Meeting, May 8th.

Linda C. McDaniel

- 2009-2010 LWV ST. LOUIS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Officers**
- Co-Pres. Linda C. McDaniel
Becky Clausen
 - 1st V. P. Kathleen Farrell
 - 2nd V. P. Pat Jones
Mary Long
 - 3rd V.P. Enid Tennenbaum
 - Sec’y. Mary Beth Reynolds
 - Treas. Cindy Mitchell
- Directors**
- Nancy Bowser
 - Eve Golden
 - Kathleen Kelly
 - Katharine Kilpatric
 - Marty Ott
 - Marty Rulo
 - Sydell Shayer
 - Newsletter Ed. Nancy Miller

CALENDAR

Sat.	May	1	9 - 4	Book Sale	p.13	Delmar Loop
Sat.	May	8	1:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting LWVSTL	p. 5	Center of Clayton
Tues.	May	11	5:30 p.m.	Environmental Quality Committee	p. 9	League Office
Fri.	May	14	10 a.m.	International Relations Committee	p .9	SL.Co. Library Hdqtrs
Mon.	May	31		Memorial Day		The Office Will be Closed

THE LEAGUE AT WORK

April 6th Elections

The Voter's Guide for the April 6th election wouldn't have been available to voters in six counties without the St. Louis League of Women Voters. That's what Phil Sutin, Post-Dispatch reporter wrote in an email to League volunteers. He was right. A heartfelt thanks to ALL who worked so hard on the Guide! It was a whirlwind effort over just about 4 weeks from February 13th when we got the go ahead from the Post to March 18th when we completed the guide ahead of schedule! Anna spearheaded so many parts of the process and provided therapy to volunteers and candidates. Julie used her contacts and worked extra hours during the project. And over 40 volunteers gave and gave and gave of their Over 950 letters went out to candidates on Saturday February 19th. Just when I thought I could never face another stack of letters, another hundred phone calls, or the never ending stack of candidate information to enter, my fellow leaguers urged us on.



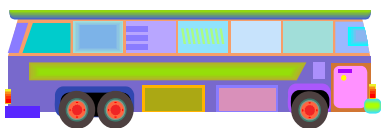
There were many willing and competent hands and heads who put together letters, called over 600 candidates to urge them to return information, discerned candidates' handwriting and on-line responses, and of course entered data into the infamous Post-Dispatch template. We won't forget those passwords soon! And then there were over 75 ballot initiatives. We sought information from multiple sources, worked to make sense of the information we gathered, edited multiple times and gave voters information they could understand. I won't forget those philosophical debates in the office when Leaguers worked out the issues of local government present in the initiatives! We learned a lot during this project and our experience will stand us in good stead to take on new challenges in the future. I can never thank you all enough for your work and commitment!

Both the printed and on-line versions of the Voters' Guide featured the League's mission and letter from Linda McDaniel prominently. Over 300,000 readers received the printed guide and the on-line version had more than 200,000 hits. These readers know that the League of Women Voters provided them with an invaluable service and are reminded of our history and contemporary mission. In Phil Sutin's email he noted that he hopes that this is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership between the Post-Dispatch and our League. We hope so too.

Your hard work on this very important project will allow us to go to potential funders and community partners with evidence of what already know--- the need for the League to provide citizens with quality non-partisan information about candidates and issues is more important than ever. Here's to the future!

Kathleen Farrell

Voter's Guide Project organizer



PROPOSITION A PASSES!!

Thanks to all who worked to make it happen

The League supported Proposition A, the ½ cent sales tax in St. Louis County for Metro in the April election. The proposition passed with a 62.91 per cent yes vote, an impressive victory. The League joined a large

coalition of organizations to work for passage. Sydell Shayer attended the coalition meetings for the League. Our support was based on our local transit position and our national urban policy position. Sydell provided tireless leadership including attending unit meetings to explain the issue and encourage members to participate with letters to the editor and yard signs. Thank you, Sydell.

League activities included:

- An article in the *In League Reporter* explaining our support to our members.
- A statement of support posted on our website.
- A letter to the editor in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.
- A follow-up reminder in the *In League Reporter* for members to vote and spread the word.
- Encouraging members to write letters to the editor.
- Distributing yard signs.

The campaign focused on explaining the importance of public transit to the economy by providing access to jobs and education. Special emphasis was given to the needs of the many people in our community who are totally dependent on public transportation. This approach created a positive discussion about the importance of transit to the metropolitan area. Hopefully, people will continue to be engaged as Metro plans for the future. Passage of Prop A will enable Metro to restore all of the recent service cuts and expand service somewhat. However, financial problems continue to plague public transportation nationwide. Public transportation must be a vital part of our decisions about the economy, infrastructure needs, climate change and energy policy. Particularly, we need to examine what role local, state and the federal governments should play in the financing of this important public service.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The League co-sponsored and moderated 11 candidate forums leading up to the April 6, 2010 election. A very special thank you goes to Julie Behrens and Anna Mennerick for guiding me through my debut as Candidate Forum Volunteer Coordinator. Anna made my job so much easier by creating the online signup sheet for volunteers. Julie never lost her patience with me as I asked numerous questions and called the office numerous times to check on all the forum details that she and Anna seamlessly take care of while juggling about 20 other things at the same time.

To all the League members who volunteered their time and skills as Moderators, Timers, and Card Collectors, I thank you so very much!!! Some of you volunteered multiple times, and filled in when the unavoidable absences occurred. Again, thank you! Volunteers included: Debby Howard, Patti Walley, Marty Ott, Kathleen Farrell, Nancy Thompson, Karen Dahman, Esther Clark, Marjorie Courtney, Barbara Elbrecht, Doris Buzzell, Mary Beth Reynolds, Dixie Buford, Carol Portman, Nancy Miller, Linda McDaniel, Kathleen Kelly, Sydell Shayer, Norma Jean Downey, Judith Smart, Mary Long, Brenda Banjak, K Wentzien, Kay Dusenbery, Gail Hafer, Pat Jones, Lois Bliss, Denny Joerger, and Ida West.

Doris Buzzell not only served as Moderator and Timer at several forums, but helped me make phone calls and coordinate volunteers. Most importantly, she stepped up at the last minute to moderate a forum when our scheduled Moderator couldn't make it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Doris!

In addition to coordinating volunteers, I had the pleasure of collecting cards for the first time at one of the forums. It was such a proud moment when candidate after candidate thanked the League for the nonpartisan work we do, and it made me realize how very proud I am to be part of such a wonderful, dedicated organization.

Pat Jones, Candidate Forum Volunteer Coordinator

LEGISLATIVE DAY, MARCH 23, 2010

We (Anna Mennerick, Mary Beth Reynolds and I) left the League parking lot at 6 AM, on the dot, to go to Jeff City for Legislative Day. We arrived at the Capitol at 8 AM, on the dot, to meet Marty Ott and Rachel Fitch and League members from across the state to participate in the annual first-hand-civic-education-opportunity organized by the League of Women Voter of Missouri. We met legislators and speakers, heard discussions about current issues, sat in on meetings and legislative sessions, ate well, and toured the Supreme Court Building.

Money, or the lack thereof, was the burning issue. The senate had chosen that day to break up into groups and weigh ideas about where budget cuts could be made to compensate for lost state revenues.

The League's long-standing opposition to increased use of sales tax provided added interest to presentations on a ballot initiative calling for a constitutional amendment for a sales tax to replace state income tax. Proponents refer to it as "The Fair Tax" while opponents refer to it as "The Mega Tax".

A House session on climate change left me with mixed feelings. The speakers used heavy doses of sarcasm to confront those arguing against the reality of climate change. While this was but a small sampling of an extensive debate, it was not my idea of constructive discourse.

It was an interesting, well-organized, well-spent day and we thank the members for LWVMO for all their planning and hard work.

Doris Buzell

THE LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

You may remember that we did national program planning at our January units. The national League received the suggestions from Leagues across the country and decided to recommend a new study of the "Federal Role in Public Education".

Two years ago, the national League appointed a committee consisting of League members expert in the field of Arms Control. Their assignment was to study and update the Arms Control position which was arrived at in December 1983. The committee produced about five papers on different aspect of the subject which you can find on the LWVUS web site. They also evaluated the position statement and came up with several recommendations for wording changes. I have looked at it carefully and decided the changes were editorial or for emphasis. **The national Board is recommending a concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position as proposed by the appointed committee.**

In addition, the national League has agreed to support the suggested bylaws change submitted by our League and the LWVMO which is to delete the word "honorary" before 50 year member in the national bylaws membership article. Many 50 year League members do not consider themselves honorary.

Details will be included in the Convention "Workbook," which will be posted on the website at the end of April. The League's national convention will be in Atlanta June 11-15, 2010.

Our President, Linda McDaniel, has been appointed chair of the Campaign Oversight Committee for the convention. This committee is charged with seeing that the national League election is fair and that if there is a slate competing with the national nominating committee recommendations, there are opportunities for each side to receive equal treatment at the convention.

Sydell Shayer

ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 8, 2010

The annual meeting of the St. Louis League of Women Voters will begin with a business meeting at 1:30pm. Business to be covered includes approval of the 2010-2011 budget, approval of a change to the by-laws, and the election of our new Officers and Board. The business portion will be followed by the special presentation, Haiti and the Peanut Butter Miracle.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Sec. 4. **Meetings.** At least eight regular meetings of the board shall be held annually *at such time and place as the board may determine.* . The president may call special board meetings and, shall call a special board meeting upon the written request of five members of the board, *shall call a special meeting. Meetings may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference call, video conferencing or e-mail.* Members of the board shall be notified of the time, place, and purpose of special board meeting in writing at least 4 days in advance. *During or at the end of the annual meeting the president may, or upon the request of five members shall call a special meeting by giving personal notice to each member of the board present.*

Rationale

The League of Woman Voters of the United States now includes a statement on the use of electronic means for holding meetings and making decisions in its bylaws. The LWV of St. Louis board believes having these options available will give us more flexibility to accomplish League work in a timely manner.

League of Women Voters of St. Louis Nominating Committee Final Report

Nominating Committee: K Wentzien, chair; elected members Judith Smart and Betty Ann Gilbert; board appointed representatives Pat Jones and Eve Golden.

We unanimously recommend the following slate for the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis for 2010-2012:

Officers:

2nd Vice President-----Pat Jones

Treasurer-----Cindy Mitchell

(Officers continuing their terms to 2011 are: Linda McDaniel & Becky Clausen, Co-Presidents; Kathleen Farrell, 1st Vice President; Enid Tennenbaum, 3rd Vice President; and Mary Beth Reynolds, Secretary)

Directors-2-year terms serving 2010-12

Marty Ott

Kathleen Kelly

Dixie Buford

Eve Golden

Director- 1 year term serving 2010-2011 (filling Pat Jones's unexpired term)

Nancy Thompson

(Continuing their terms to 2011 are: Katharine Kilpatric, Sydell Shayer, and Mary Long)

Nominating Committee:

Doris Buzzell, Chair

Susan Fluegel

Agnes Garino

Biographical Information on the proposed slate of officers:

Pat Jones, 2nd Vice President

“I am part of the snowball effect. When I became a League member four years ago, it was because a friend asked me to attend a Unit Meeting. She had joined several years earlier because a friend asked her. I have since asked various friends who have now joined the League. Plain and simple, membership in the League is a snowball effect.” Pat has served as co-chair of Membership and as coordinator of the Candidate Forum Volunteers while serving on the Board of Directors. Her educational background is in English and journalism. For the past six years she has served as a community volunteer. Her activities include involvement in her children’s schools as well as various political campaigns from the local to national level.

Cindy Mitchell, Treasurer

Cindy joined the League in Ohio 40 years ago. She has served in various roles in the St. Louis League over the past 25 plus years. A retired tax accountant, she served as Treasurer from 2000-2003. After working on the League’s audit in 2009 she agreed to fill the open Treasurer’s position and is now seeking election for a full term.

Directors:

Mary Ott, at retired teacher, joined the League in 2002. She was elected to the Board last year to serve an unexpired term and is now running for a full term. She chaired the Early Voting Consensus Study and worked on the National Popular Vote Consensus Study and has served in a variety of other ways including volunteering in the office, at candidate forums, the St. Louis Housing Authority Election, and other special events.

Kathleen Kelly, has been an active League member for over 10 years, and this will be her third election to the board. She has been most active in the city, resides in the Central West End, and is a Computer Systems Analyst. She has registered voters in the city, run the League project to monitor elections with the Missouri Housing Development Corporation, helped with the voters guide, the website and been a school board observer of the city public school board. She was active in educating the board of directors about the changes in the voting systems when local boards of election were moving to use of Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines.

Dixie Buford, is working her “retirement job” after a career in academics. She is the administrator for a joint program with Washington University undergraduates and Children’s Hospital. This is just her 2nd year of involvement with the League but is looking forward to serving on the Board. She is widowed and lives in the Central West End(CWE) “and loving it.” She is mentoring a city middle school student and is passionate about politics and the Cardinals. Her son and other family members live in CA, her home state.

Eve Golden, joined the STLWV of Chesterfield in 2004. She is looking forward to serving on the Board as a “Special Projects” chair for fundraisers, annual meeting and League events. She has previously participated on the committees for the national popular vote consensus and the early voting consensus. After retiring from education, the bipartisan voting issues of the League seemed most important. She lives in the West County area with family in CA and MA.

Nancy Thompson, has served on the St. Louis League Board several times and has also served as President. She has been a member and board member in four states since 1972 and has participated in and chaired many committees pertaining to almost every aspect of League activity. Nancy is an urban planner and currently is the community outreach manager for Great Rivers Greenway District.

Nominating Committee:

Doris Buzzell, Chair, planned to join the League when she retired in 1997 after using it for years as an information service about voting issues. She joined the League in 1998 and has served as Unit Leader of the Kirkwood/Webster Groves day unit, chaired the Education Committee for five years, and most recently served as President of the St. Louis League from 2007-2009.

Agnes Garino, has been a member since 1971. In the 70’s she served as President of the LWV of Kirkwood and South County, County League Chairman, and Vice-President. In the 80’s she was president of the LWV of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Citizens Information/Resource Center, which was the predecessor of the League of Women Voters Information Service as we know it today. She was a member of the LWVUS Development Network and has served the League and community at large in countless ways over the years. She has edited the League’s quarterly Metro News since the mid-90’s.

Susan Fluegel, is a recently retired educator, having taught elementary education for 37 years in the Lindbergh School District. She has been a League member for about 20 years and has worked on the education and early voting committees. She also registers new citizens to vote as part of the League’s presence at the Immigration Naturalization Ceremonies.

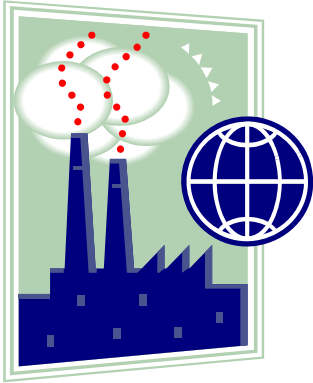
Following the business meeting will be the presentation “Haiti and the Peanut Butter Miracle”

League of Women Voters of St. Louis - Proposed Budget

INCOME			Budget	Actual to April 9
Dues			18,200	3,395
Development				
Member Contributions			2,500	758
Non-Member Contributions			375	53
Campaign for the League			6,000	1,100
Tailgate and Book Sales			2,800	2,632
Tributes			900	281
Other fundraisers - Theater party			9,830	3,480
Total Development			22,405	8,304
Member Meetings				
Kick off			1,200	1,525
Annual Meeting			1,300	30
Holiday Meeting			1,000	2,685
Products			50	280
Total - Local Meetings			3,550	4,520
Interest				
			100	13
Miscellaneous				
From Reserves			2,500	4,000
Total Income				
			46,755	20,254
EXPENSES				
Operating Costs			12,000	8,370
Payroll			14,000	10,105
Board & Administrative				
Board Materials/Resources			175	98
Annual Registration				15
Member recruitment & Retention			1,000	292
Fund Raising				
Tailgate & Book Sale			300	422
Fund raising other			1,500	498
Advocacy				
Public relations			350	
Publications/Position Support			325	
Website Dev & Maintenance			280	
Coalition support & memberships			250	150
Meetings, Conventions & Affiliations				
National Convention/Council			2,500	
State Convention/Council			500	
Kickoff Meeting			1,200	1,215
Annual Meeting			1,300	
Holiday Meeting			1,000	1,492

COMMITTEES AT WORK

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE



The Environmental Quality Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 11 at 5:30 pm at the League office, 8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104, Brentwood, MO.

Nancy Bowser, Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will meet on May 12th, 10am at the headquarters of the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh. All are invited to attend.

Judith Smart, Chair



JUNE OPPORTUNITY !!

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center puts St. Louis at the center of research to preserve, modify and develop plants that will help us cope with climate change, water shortages and a rapidly growing world population. The EQ committee has arranged a tour of the facility for Tuesday, **June 8th** at 10:00 a.m. The Center is located at 975 North Warson Road north of the intersection of Warson and Olive. There will be some walking so wear comfortable shoes. Also, space is limited so please call or email the office for reservations. Join us for this opportunity to learn more about the cutting-edge research on food, pharmaceuticals, and biofuels being done here in St. Louis.



Tour the

DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

975 North Warson Road, 63132

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

10:00 a.m.



Space is limited: for reservations call or email the League office at 314.961.6869 or league@lwvstl.org

Wear comfortable shoes



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Thanks to the Leaguers who worked in and out of the office this past month. For the April 6 election many Leaguers helped deliver voter guides, answer telephones, and helped with compiling, tabing, and labeling the Missouri Voter and the In League Reporter. Thanks to those worker bees: Esther Clark, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Linda McDaniel, Becky Clausen, Kathleen Farrell, Katharine Kilpatric, Kathleen Kelly, Marj Courtney, Nancy Bowser, Lolly Wehrli, Doris Buzzell, Mary Beth Reynolds, Sue Dellbringge, Brenda Banjak, Janice Dahl, Pat Jones, Marty Ott, Nancy Miller, Erin Tremain, Brenda Tremain, Moira Lewis, Rita Lewis, Cindy Mitchell, Sydell Shayer, Carol Portman, Debby Howard, Jean Srenco, Carol Washburne, Angie Dunlap, Lois Bliss, Mary Long, Judith Smart , and Janet Ward. This is truly the League at work - 90 years strong and still going.

Julie Behrens, Staff

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN Volume XXXX, Issue 6 April 9, 2010 VOTING PROGRESS . . . and not

SB 845 (Barnitz) has passed the Senate and been sent to the House. This legislation would make it easier for soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, as well as others who work overseas, to submit absentee voting applications while they are serving abroad. Currently the time that it takes to apply for the ballot and return it causes the ballot to be only provisional.

SB 845 requires the Secretary of State to establish procedures for overseas voters to request and send voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications electronically, resulting in a faster turn around. The bill also contains provisions to ensure enough absentee ballots are ready and available for overseas military voters and has other provisions to ensure safety and tracking of ballots.

SB 651 (Days) creates an advance voting system and is not moving. LWVMO supports.

TAXES

HB 2034 (Oxford) which would make Missouri's personal income tax more progressive has had a committee hearing but not been voted out to the floor. It would lower the taxes of 60% of Missouri's lowest income earners and raise the taxes of the top 20%. LWVMO supports.

SB 905 (Bray) is on the Senate Perfection calendar with substitutes pending. It is the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax and would bring Missouri's tax policies and practices into line with those from other states, thus allowing better collection sales and use taxes from online customers. This bill is a real hope to help Missouri's budget woes in future years. LWVMO supports.

HB 2302 (Sutherland) is the companion House bill.

HJR 56 (Emery), the Mega Sales Tax bill, has completed a hearing in the House committee and not been voted out to the floor. This is the bill referred to as the "FairTax" which is a proposed constitutional amendment that replaces the state's personal and corporate income tax with sales tax on all items and services (with a few exceptions in the substitute bill). LWV is adamantly opposed to this bill and working with a number of groups to keep it off the ballot. LWVMO opposes.

ENERGY – Win Colwill

HCS HB 1871 is the omnibus energy bill which is now on the House Perfection Calendar. The House Committee bill includes numerous subjects, including two LWVMO-SUPPORTED bills: Green State Buildings and Property Assessments Clean Energy Act (PACE). PACE allows cities to establish a fund for residential and commercial energy improvements which property owners could utilize; the cost would be repaid over 20 years through an assessment on the property. Approximately 17 states have adopted PACE legislation.

SB 848 (Barnitz) Allows animal waste to be included in list of renewable energy sources that utilities may use to meet requirements of Missouri's Renewable Energy Standard. The bill passed the House and was 2nd read in the Senate on 4/6. LWVMO – Of Interest

DEATH PENALTY – Sydell Shayer

HB 1683 (Deeken) is the moratorium on the death penalty with a concurrent study of all aspects of the death penalty. No hearing has been scheduled and it is not on the calendar. League would support this bill if it were to start moving.

TABOR – Sydell Shayer

HCS HJR 87 – This bill, identified as TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) is a proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting appropriations in a fiscal year from exceeding certain limits. The Hancock Amendment which was enacted many years ago puts limits on revenue. This constitutional amendment would put limits on expenditures. The League, unfortunately, was not able to keep the Hancock amendment from being enacted, despite a noble effort. We will try again (and are joined by many other groups) to prevent TABOR from passing. This amendment would further limit the ability of our state to support the many programs and services that the League supports. Any laws that prevent the state from allocating money to keep the government running works against the economic well being of that state. Colorado passed a similar bill several years ago. It took only a few years for the citizens of that state to realize the economic disaster that it caused and they repealed TABOR.

HJR 87 went through several House committees, each voting it out DO PASS. It had a hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday April 7, 2010. There is no hearing scheduled and it is not on the calendar. It never hurts to let your senator know that you are opposed to this bill.

TAX CREDIT PROPOSALS

The Governor's plan to reform tax credits was amended to an omnibus economic development bill, **SB 895** (Dempsey). Several amendments by Senator Shields and Senator Crowell were offered. Senator Crowell has been a strong advocate throughout the session to make tax credits subject to the appropriations process, and his amendment would require this. This is a controversial provision, and it was evident that there was not consensus among the Senators; the bill was laid aside and likely not be taken up until after the Senate finishes its work on the budget. The Governor's plan will establish a global cap on tax credits, eliminate current statutory language, and combine tax credits into 6 broad categories. The Department of Economic development would have broad responsibility to authorize tax credits. The Missouri Budget Project (a group LWVMO works closely with on budget issues) has concerns about including the category of what will be called "community assistance" in the plan. These contribution based tax credits are primarily used by not for profit organizations, and focus on social programs rather than economic development. The MBP urges that these be exempt from the global cap (as are the Senior Circuit Breaker and Homestead Preservation tax credits). The total amount of Community Assistance tax credits is small, and these are not a driving force in creating a budget deficit. The reason that these proposals are getting more attention this year is the severe budget crisis of the state. Nearly \$600 million a year out of the Missouri budget is automatically diverted to tax credits. Putting this into the appropriations process would go a long way toward solving budget issues. This reform is to change tax credits from an entitlement status to a discretionary status. Reform will require people who receive tax credits to have contracts which show the effectiveness of the credits as well as annual accountability reports (what a welcome change that would be).

THE BUDGET – SUPPLEMENTAL

The Supplemental Budget is a yearly responsibility of the legislature, to modify the current budget year we are in (2010, from July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) to bring expenditures in line with revenue coming in. Of course, this year has been particularly difficult, due to the decline in revenue, even more than had been estimated (which is always hard to do 18 months out). The Senate refused to go to conference on **HB 2014** (Icet), the supplemental budget bill for FY 2010, since there were no "differences" to exceed on the school formula language, which is the same in both the House and Senate positions. The House defeated a motion to ask the Senate a second time for a conference on the bill and then defeated the motion to adopt the Senate version of the bill by a vote of 72-79. This defeat leaves the fate of the supplemental budget for the current year in doubt. Many options are being considered, including asking the Governor to submit another supplemental budget request.

MENTAL HEALTH/HEALTH – Lael Von Holt

Many bills in this area languish without committee assignment, stalled by the political process and budget debate. Nationally, the most noteworthy development is that Health Care Reform is now federal law, and the League celebrates this historic victory. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has been signed by the President. A subsequent reconciliation bill has also been signed. The impact of this law is unclear. Many of the benefits will not become effective until 2014, with the exception of children's health care which may become effective in September, 2010. Hopefully, that's good news for mental health, especially children's mental health including the autism spectrum disorders. However, there is litigation pending on the law's constitutionality. Repeal is unlikely, but possible, and LWVUS will be closely monitoring.

LWVMO continues to monitor: **SB 618** (Rupp) which requires health carriers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism has had a hearing in the Special Standing Committee on Health Insurance. **HB 1311 7 1341** (Scharnhorst), the House companion bill, is in the Senate Small Business Insurance & Industry Committee. **SB 918** (Schaefer) establishing provisions relating to pharmacy benefit managers on switching prescriptions and physician override was voted out of committee April 7. This protection of the physician/patient relationship is supportable. **SB 639** (Schmitt) authorizes a state false claims act for MO HealthNet (Medicaid). A hearing was conducted in the Senate Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee where medical opposition appears to be strong. State intervention on fraud is supportable, but League takes no position at this time on the bill itself. **HB 2123** (Cooper) authorizes the MO HealthNet Division to implement a statewide dental delivery system. Time is short and the budget debate dominates, making the outlook here doubtful, but advocacy might help. The budget debate has been intense and the cuts painful, including the latest 10% in mental health, but it is not too late to advocate on behalf of these important issues. Thanks to all who have made that call, sent that letter, attended a hearing, or stopped by your legislator's office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

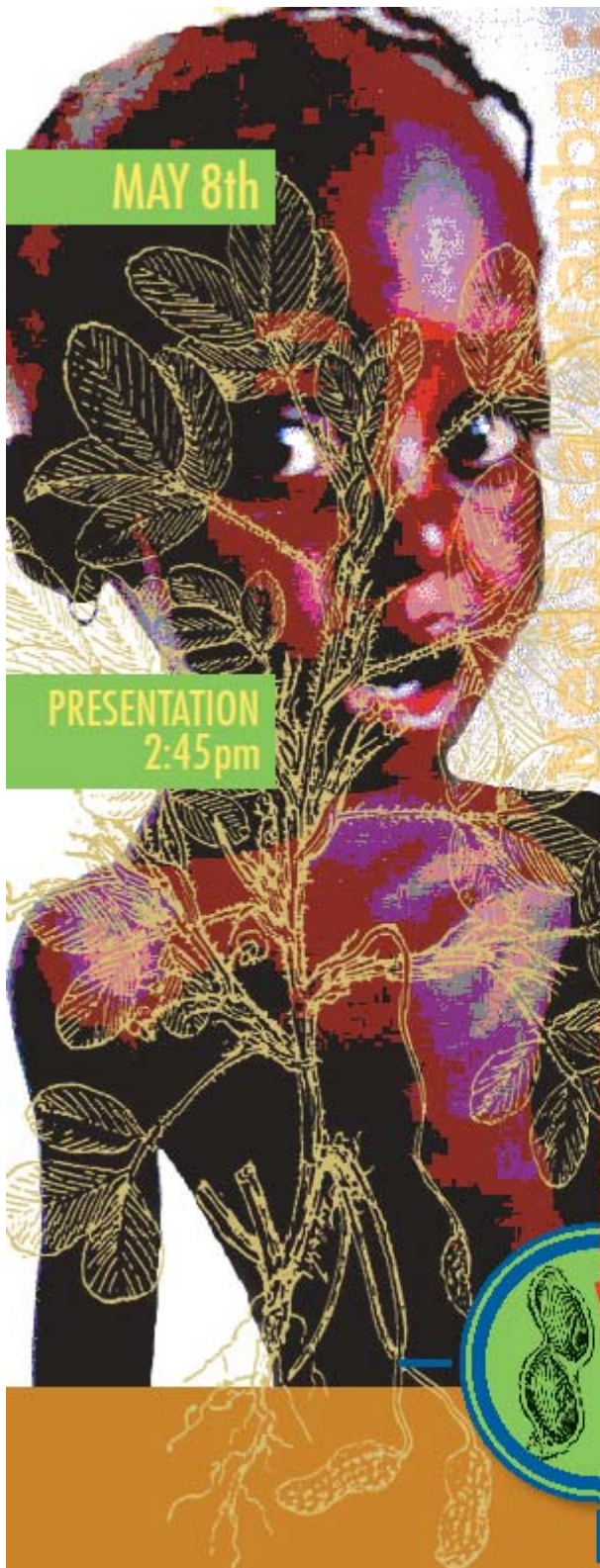
“Promoting an Educated and Empowered Electorate” . . . not only a great catch phrase, it is what we do. The citizens who call our office, read our voter guides, attend candidate forums and learn from our website become empowered to make good decisions. The key to our success is empowering voters to make their own decisions. We present the candidates in their own words. We analyze propositions in terms of both passage and defeat at the polls. Our particular brand of information is delivered with the assumption that individuals can make up their own minds about what to think and how to vote.

Empowered voters are motivated voters. Motivated voters go to the polls and make their choices. Those choices have an impact on how our communities are governed. The April 6th elections had several contests decided by fewer than 5 votes. One was left undecided by a tie at the end of the election night count. Thank you all again for your dedication to supporting the electoral process by providing the information that encourages participation in the electoral process. Every vote does count and every voter should be an informed voter.

Anna Mennerick

IN MEMORY

It is with sadness that we note the unexpected death of Julian Hall on April 8, 2010. Julian, a long time League member, became an official member of the League after our national bylaws were changed to admit male members. As husband to Mickey Hall, a fifty plus year League member, Julian has always been a strong League supporter, whether officially a member or not. He also was a resource to the League on human resource issues and has been the speaker one or more times at a League membership meeting. Julian and Mickey have been regularly attending the Thursday evening unit which meets at the League office. All of us extend to Mickey our deep sympathy at this trying time.



HAITI MAMBA MIRAK.

A special presentation on Haiti and the "Peanut Butter Miracle", by award-winning filmmakers Lori Dowd and Frank Popper.

An eye-opening and empowering presentation about medical innovators, social entrepreneurs and the business behind the fight against global malnutrition. Popper and Dowd will reveal the struggles, realities, perseverance and basic survival of the passionate team that strives to help thousands of children with a revolutionary peanut butter supplement.

Date & Time:

Saturday, May 8th

Meeting begins at 1:30 pm

Haiti presentation will begin at 2:45 pm

Place:

Center of Clayton

50 Gay Avenue, Clayton, Missouri, 63105

Reservations:

Cost is \$10 per person

Payment must be received by May 3rd

Please send check to:

St. Louis League of Women Voters

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104

St. Louis, MO 63144

Questions:

For more information,
please contact the League
office at 314-961-6869



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

*Reservation for May 8, League of Women Voters of St. Louis Annual Meeting
“Haiti: Mamba Mirak” by Lori Dowd and Frank Popper*

1:30 Annual Meeting

2:45 Presentation

Name(s) _____

Number of Reservations _____

Amount included (\$10 each) _____

Tickets will be held at the reservation desk.

Return this form with the amount indicated to:

LWV St. Louis 8706 Manchester Ste. 104 St. Louis MO 63144 by May 3rd.

Questions: 314.961.6869.



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Always Looking for a
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Annual Book Sale

**Look for
Your Next
Great Book Here!**

**Saturday
May 1st, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
University City in Delmar Loop**

**Volunteers are needed to haul books to the sale (muscle and bone building opportunity).
Please call Barbara Elbrecht if you are available to help, 962-2821.**



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