



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS

8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104,

St Louis, MO 63144

314.961.6869

www.lwvstl.org

JANUARY 2012

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JANUARY IS PROGRAM PLANNING TIME!!

January units will be on Program Planning for the League of Women Voters of the U.S. January is a time we begin anew and think of the year ahead. So it is for the League. It is the time for us to think and make recommendations for new issues for the League to study: arriving at a position, lobby, and then advocate for that position. It is an expression of our grassroots. We, the membership across the nation, will be thinking about our nation and communities and what public policies need to be addressed.

At the national convention in June, delegates from across the nation will vote to decide our program, new studies, and what to update or review. This is a serious task (but fun) for us to set a course for our organization.



I will be sending out more information immediately after the first of the year about how we can think about our recommendations.

Linda McDaniel

FEATURE ARTICLES

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Mon. Jan 2nd	OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY		
Sat. Jan 7th	9:30-11:30 am	Education Study Comm.	League Office
Sat. Jan 7th	9:00 am	Privatization Study Comm.	Nancy Thompson's Home
Tues. Jan. 10th-Sat. Jan 14		Unit Meetings	See page 7
Tues. Jan 10	7:00 pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	League Office
Thurs. Jan 12	10:30 am	Health Care Comm.	Cape Albeon
Fri. Jan 13	10:00 am	International Relations Comm.	SLCounty Library Hdqtrts
Wed. Jan 18	6:00 pm	LWVSTL Board Meeting	League Office

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

January 2012

☆☆☆☆☆☆
 ☆ *"Some people* ☆
 ☆ *give time,* ☆
 ☆ *some money,* ☆
 ☆ *some their* ☆
 ☆ *skills and* ☆
 ☆ *connections,* ☆
 ☆ *some literally* ☆
 ☆ *give their* ☆
 ☆ *life's* ☆
 ☆ *blood...but* ☆
 ☆ *everyone has* ☆
 ☆ *something to* ☆
 ☆ *give.* ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ *Barbara Bush* ☆
 ☆ ☆☆☆☆☆

Thank you to all who came to the Holiday Luncheon and contributed children's books and gift certificates. These were distributed at Grace Hill in St. Louis City and Circle of Concern in St. Louis County. A special thanks to Lois Bliss, Brenda Banjak and Sue Dellbringge who brought in those library sale books in such pristine condition.

Amy Smoucha, our keynote speaker from Jobs With Justice bought us both a sobering and hopeful message. Record numbers of our friends and neighbors in St. Louis, Missouri, and the rest of the country are facing poverty and threats to their ability to have decent housing, fair employment opportunities, and adequate and affordable medical care. Our older veterans face the closure of the facilities they rely on for needed care and housing. All of us are affected by the cuts in local, state and federal programs.

But there is much we CAN do to address these challenges. We need to recognize that in order to solve these problems **we need** to do more than contribute our money and time to support philanthropic organizations that assists our communities. We need **to make citizens aware** of the link between these problems and effective government programs with adequate funding and oversight. We need **to elect competent, ethical and committed public officials**. We need **to pass or reject important ballot initiatives**. We need **to inform our fellow citizens of the importance of their votes and the necessary information to cast them responsibly**.

THAT IS WHERE THE LEAGUE COMES IN!

There will be plenty of opportunity to make a difference in 2012. We will be launching Vote 411 in January to provide personalized candidate and ballot initiatives at the local, state and national levels. We will be producing and distributing 4 Voters Guides in collaboration with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that will reach over 500,000 citizens. We will try to answer every request for candidates forums, speakers, voter registration and voter information. We will work to raise the necessary funds to make sure that this work gets done.

Mark your calendars for program planning in January. Here's your chance to influence the LWVUS's program positions. Volunteer to work on the Voters Guides and candidate forums. And most importantly, recruit others to join the League and get involved with this very important work.

Happy New Year! Let's make 2012 a meaningful election year!

Linda C. McDaniel Kathleen Farrell
 Co-Presidents

Members and Guests Enjoy Conversation, Friendship, and Food for the Body and Mind at Holiday Luncheon

New member and guest speaker, Amy Smoucha informed members about the new Health Care Law and the current status of programs assisting those in need.



Nancy Thompson and Debby Howard enjoy the festive spirit of the luncheon.



Ida West and Co-President Linda McDaniel check out the books provided by Lois Bliss and Sue Dellbringge for members to purchase. Donated books were given to Circle of Concern and Grace Hill for their Holiday projects.



Long time League member Emma Lee Chilton was accompanied by Yvonne Logan and Emma Lee's daughter-in-law, Shelley Welsh. Members were happy to see Emma Lee looking healthy and happy!



Guest Dorothy Lamb and member Norma Jean Downey enjoying good friends and good food!

PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES STUDY

Still Time to Join in Thinking About Privatizing Government Services

The privatization study from LWVUS still is in its early stages, even though we'll be checking for consensus in April unit meetings. No prior experience is needed to join the local committee; we are all learners. We simply read and discuss what we think about what we read. We're beginning to gather a few volunteers, but we need a couple more.

We'll meet the first Saturday mornings of January through April, and our work will be finished after the April board meeting.

Last month's In League Reporter contained a long introduction from a prior Seattle League study. If that is tucked away in your reading stack, dig it out now. This month we're providing a shorter piece from a professor and former government official that will help us begin to deal with the nuanced consensus questions we're expecting.

A good, well-organized website is found at <http://www.inthepublicinterest.org>.

Good Project Management Is the Key to the Privatization Decision

David F. Schulz

Ever notice how people on both sides of the privatization debate tend to talk in code about whether or not to privatize? Proponents talk about privatization as an opportunity for improved "efficiency" and "lower costs," by which they mean public employees currently performing a particular service are a bunch of stupid, lazy, overpaid, and not-very-well-managed "shovel-leaners."

Opponents talk about "public control," "accountability," and "quality," by which they mean private contractors are a bunch of thieving pirates who will seize any and all opportunities to provide the lowest possible level of service at the cheapest cost. How can we decode, and perhaps more importantly defuse, the conversation?

Most governments privatize because of the perceived potential for maintaining or possibly improving services while reducing costs. But we teach our students at Northwestern that, even if the cost-saving case for privatization is compelling, the decision to privatize should depend on a public agency's self-assessment of its ability to do two things.

The first is to frame a set of specifications and contract documents which describe the services it wants to purchase completely and unambiguously. The goal: a shared understanding between public agency and contractor of the services to be provided, the conditions and constraints under which they are to be carried out, and the details of compensation arrangements by which they are to be paid for, including any possible penalties or incentive bonuses.

The second is to firmly and fairly manage the service contract over its life to ensure the work

Privatization Study con't

is carried out as described in the specifications and contract, while dealing equitably with the contractor when unanticipated situations arise during the life of the contract, respecting his/her need to make a profit and stay in business.

We also teach our students it is delusional for contractors to desire either vague or incomplete specifications of their work during procurement, or lax management and oversight of it by the public agency during execution. Either is a recipe verging on a guarantee for disaster.

If the specs and contract don't describe the work clearly, then the expectations of both contractor and public agency regarding the work to be performed will quickly and inevitably diverge.

Disagreements will grow and what should be a mutually-beneficial partnership between contractor and customer will be poisoned. Those who opposed privatization in the first place, who invariably will be closely monitoring the results, will jump at any chance to say, "I told you so," as disputes mount, tempers shorten, and the relationship deteriorates. It is likely in such cases a judge will eventually be forced to do what the contracting agency should have done in the first place, define the nature of the work to be performed and fair compensation for it.

The same outcome can be expected with lax contract management. Agencies most likely to manage contracts poorly are usually those with little experience in the privatization arena, and contractors who welcome such incompetence are themselves likely to be relative novices. While at first contractors may secretly rejoice over an uninformed or disinterested public agency project manager, they will soon discover the truth in the saying, "Be careful what you ask for; you just might get it." Less-than-thorough project management allows small departures from customer expectations, which could readily be settled if they were surfaced early in the project life, to fester and escalate. Contractors who would benefit greatly in fine-tuning their services from the day-to-day guidance and direction a good project manager provides, instead have to guess at what the contracting agency really wants, whether they are actually providing it, and perhaps most importantly, whether the agency thinks they're providing it.

Sound project management is a two-way street. A project manager who is on top of the game can experience right alongside the contractor the unanticipated conditions and outright problems which inevitably occur in every privatized service contract during its life. He/she is the conduit back to the agency with the news the contract may need to be changed to reflect such conditions and problems, and serves as the line-of-first-defense judge in recommending if and how such changes should be accomplished. Again, if the project manager is not qualified to or interested in rendering such judgments, then a different kind of judge, this one in a black robe, is likely to have to make the call.

The reason it is critically important to understand and appreciate the essential role of complete and unambiguous project specifications and fair and firm project management is often the same reason governments are anxious to look at privatization in the first place: the fiscal problems plaguing virtually every state and local government in the country. Two of the most popular tools to deal with budget crises, in addition to possible privatization of services, are hiring freezes and early retirement incentive programs. Thus at the very moment when governments find themselves in most need of seasoned and capable managers to write and manage innovative privatization contracts, they find their longest-serving employees, who often but not always are the best positioned to oversee the privatization, opting for early retirement, taking their decades of valuable experience to the fishing hole. And hiring freezes make it difficult to replace them, especially to justify hiring experienced project managers at salaries well above the entry level.

Privatization Study con't

So here's a message that requires no decoding whether you favor or oppose privatization: Your interests are best served by complete and well thought out contract documents and thorough and competent project management. Only then can you determine whether the decision by a particular government to privatize a particular service is a wise one or not.

David Schulz is Director of the Infrastructure Technology Institute of Northwestern University, where he also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He came to Northwestern from a quarter century in the public sector including positions as Deputy Public Works Commissioner for the City of Chicago, Budget Director in Chicago and Milwaukee County, and elected Milwaukee County Executive. This article is reprinted from www.ncppp.org.

For more information about joining this committee, see p. 5

League is Represented in Focus St. Louis Report on Public Charter Schools

Norma Jean Downey, League member and retired teacher was the League's voice on Focus St. Louis's Task Force Report on St. Louis Public Charter Schools. The volunteer Task Force, comprised of business, civic, education and government leaders, worked for nine months to produce a 15 page white paper on the state of charter schools in 2011. It met with 11 leaders representing charter schools, their sponsors, the State of Missouri, the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis Public Schools. The report's conclusion is that: "Charter schools can provide a powerful model for improving education options in low-performing school districts. However, according to the latest data (2010-2011), while many charter schools are performing better than the traditional St. Louis Public Schools, none of the 17

charter schools meet statewide academic standards."

The Task Force made the following recommendations:

- ✓ Close charter schools that do not meet academic performance standards- either statewide standards or, when applicable, the academic standards spelled out in their charter documents.

those of the schools districts in which they are located.

- ✓ Allow charter public schools access to unused SLPS school buildings
- ✓ Improve the process for closing failed charter schools.

Many of us participated in the LWV Missouri study on Charter Schools and persuaded our fellow leaguers at the state convention to adopt a program position that neither supports or opposes charter schools. That position also called for charter schools to be governed by the same regulations as other public schools. Norma Jean's participation in this important work is much appreciated. The League's voice needs to be at the table in projects like this. Copies of the report can be viewed on the Focus St. Louis website at www.focus-stl.org.



- ✓ Overhaul the sponsorship of charter schools.
- ✓ Provide charter schools with access to revenue streams comparable to

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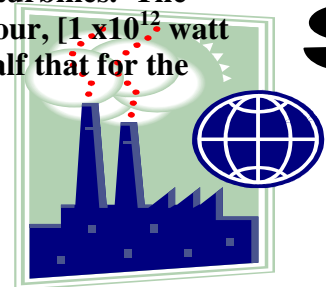
WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Wind energy development, like all energy systems does have some environmental impacts and concerns. Wind farms can have an impact on local weather patterns. A study published in *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* suggested that using wind turbines to meet 10 percent of global energy demand in 2100 could actually have a warming effect on temperatures (increase in temperature by one degree Celsius in the regions on land where the wind farms are installed, including a smaller increase in areas beyond those regions. This is due to the effect of wind turbines on both horizontal and vertical atmospheric circulation. Wind farm propellers create a lot of turbulence whose effects can be detected for miles. More efficient rotors in development may overcome this negative impact.

Wind power has relative little impact but there are environmental and health concerns:

1. **Noise produced by the rotor blades.** Wind turbines produce some noise when they operate. Majority of the turbine noise is masked by the sound of the wind itself, and the turbines run only when the wind blows. Engineers have made design changes to reduce the noise from wind turbines. Early model turbines are generally noisier than most new and larger models.
2. **Visual impacts of the wind turbines.** Proper siting decisions can help to avoid any aesthetic impacts to the landscape. One strategy being used to partially offset visual impacts is to site fewer turbines in any one location by using multiple locations and by using today's larger and more efficient models of wind turbines.
3. **Death of birds and bats that fly into the blades.** The wind industry and government agencies have sponsored research into collisions, relevant bird and bat behavior, mitigation measures, and appropriate study design protocols. Careful site selection is needed to minimize fatalities and in some cases additional research may be needed to address bird and bat impact issues.
4. **Other Concerns.** The primary health and safety considerations are related to blade movement and the presence of industrial equipment in areas potentially accessible to the public. An additional concern associated with wind turbines is potential interference with radar and telecommunication facilities. And like all electrical generating facilities, wind generators produce electric and magnetic fields.
5. **Mortality Rate.** All forms of energy generation have an underlining mortality rate. Wind power has death resulting from installation and repair of the turbines. The current mortality rate of wind energy is 0.15 deaths per TWh (terawatt hour, [1×10^{12} watt hours]). Some researchers indicates that wind's mortality rate is about half that for the occupational mortality rate for coal.

Addition information regarding these concerns is addressed in the Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS (environmental impact statement). To get more information about these concerns and access current research, please visit the suggested web sites listed on the [Wind Energy Link](http://windeis.anl.gov/guide/links/index.cfm) (<http://windeis.anl.gov/guide/links/index.cfm> page).

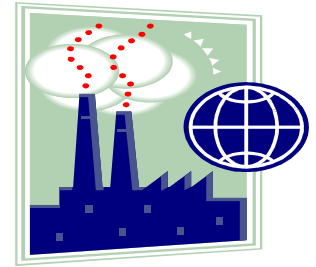


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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EQ will meet Tuesday, Jan 10 at 7 pm at the League office. Topics include possible General Meeting and how to recruit additional members

Contact Mickey Croyle (mcroyle@wustl.edu or 314.395.7876) with suggestions or questions.
Mickey Croyle, Chair



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



The Education Committee will meet on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 9:30-11:30 am at the League Office. This will be a "sharing" of information pertaining to education, local, state or national, of interest to you for discussion. If you can, please bring any publication, media information or names of recommended speakers on education issues to the meeting. All members are welcome to participate in this discussion. If you plan to attend, please contact Marty Ott prior to January 7.

In case of inclement weather and cancellation, you will be notified.
Marty Ott, Chair

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Health Care Committee will meet at Cape Albeon on Thursday, January 12th, at 10:30 am in the private dining room. 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, January 13th, at 10 am at the St Louis County Library Headquarters. All are welcome.

Judith Smart, Chair

PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE



The study committee will meet on Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 am at my home. Call 314.932.4904.

We'll meet the first Saturday mornings of January through April, and our work will be finished after the April board meeting. All are welcome.

Nancy Thompson, Chair

UNITS WILL BE PLANNING PROGRAM FOR 2012

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, January 12th
9:30 am
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314.434.5116
Leader: Mary Brown
636.532.0833

ST LOUIS CITY

Saturday, January 14th
10:30 am

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314.925.8251

THURSDAY EVENING UNIT

Thursday, January 12th
7:00 pm

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Rd, Suite 104
Leader: Esther Clark
314.416.0366

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, January 10th
9:15 am coffee
9:30 am

LIBRARY, University United Methodist Church

6901 Washington Ave 63130, 314.863.8055
Leader: Carol Portman
314.726.3269

Directions: 1 block south of Delmar at the northwest corner of Washington and Trinity—just inside The lions' gates—across from Wash U Music School and diagonally across from COCA

WEBSTER/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, January 11th
9:30 am

HOME OF LOIS BLISS

131 E Adams #2C, Kirkwood, 314.965.0092
Leader: Mary Long
314.849.7045

Directions: Corner of Adams and Kirkwood Rd., next to the Commerce Bank.

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TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

“Happy Birthday” greeting to Betty MacConnell from Norma Jean Downey to LWV Information Service.

In honor of Anna Mennerick & Julie Behrens from Kathleen Farrell to LWV St. Louis.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

As we begin a new year we are anticipating a big push for volunteers to help in the election year. If you have some time to spare for the League we would love to have you. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609 (phone) or IMBJH@ charter.net (email). Thanks to Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Sue Dellbringge, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Pat Jones, Linda McDaniel, and Nancy Miller who helped since our last newsletter. If we neglected to mention anyone, please let us know and we will acknowledge you in the next newsletter.

Julie Behrens

From the Executive Director’s Desk - Anna Mennerick

Today, I spoke with a 93 year old woman who wanted to learn about the Libertarian and Constitution party platforms, indicated a strong pro-life, pro-Obama and pro-civil rights position and a desire to learn everything she could about the candidates for the Republican nomination. Whew! Not everyone’s politics are that complicated, but the need for un-biased information is universal.

It is so important to our country and community that the League of Women Voters exists. We have an exciting year ahead of us. Thank you all for your past support, without you there would not be a League of Women Voters. I invite you all to identify a project, big or small, to apply your talents to the vital work of the League of Women Voters in 2012.



League of Women Voters of Missouri 2012 Appointment Calendars

Order Today: Pay with a credit card at www.lwvmissouri.org or 314-961-6869 or
Mail form & payment to LWV, 8706 Manchester Rd., Ste 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

Monthly Wall Calendars

Calendar Pricing:

1 - 9	\$5.00 each
10 - 99	\$4.50 each
100 +	\$ 4.00 each

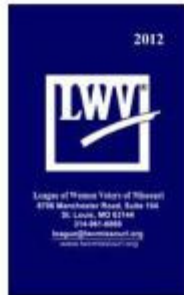
Shipping and Handling:

1 - 3	\$ 3.00	26 - 50	\$ 20.00
4 - 10	\$ 10.00	51 - 99	\$ 50.00
11 - 25	\$ 15.00	100+	call for quote

Pocket Calendars – *New this Year* – Weekly or Monthly

Weekly

\$4.00 each
includes shipping & handling



Monthly

\$3.00 each
includes shipping & handling



Select Payment: Check MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ Expiration _____ CSC _____

_____ # Wall Calendars @ _____ = Total \$ _____ + S & H \$ _____ = Total Enclosed _____

_____ # Weekly Pocket Calendars @ \$4 each (includes shipping and handling) = Total Enclosed _____

_____ # Monthly Pocket Calendars @ \$3 each (includes shipping and handling) = Total Enclosed _____

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League or Organization (if applicable) _____

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Phone _____ Email _____



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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.

***Thirty 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 you to help the League budget. Join today!

