



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
October, 2008

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

Can you believe that the end of this long pre-election season is in sight? The voter registration deadline is October 8; and we are working to have our voters' guide information ready about the same time. Now all that is left is campaigning; educating ourselves and others about the candidates and issues; getting out the votes; and voting.

The theme of our Yellow Umbrella Walk was the right to vote. It was a privilege to have Mary Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, as our featured guest. The speakers were inspiring, the day was beautiful, and the bright yellow umbrellas and t-shirts made it a festive occasion which Bill Dahl and his ubiquitous camera recorded for posterity. I wish you all could have been there.

While here, Mary Wilson visited the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners to discuss election preparations and voter education, especially in the light of large turnouts and long ballots. Their advice was: 1. be sure you are registered correctly; and 2. know how you are going to vote before you get there. (You can see/download your ballot by going to SmartVoter.org.) So, at the risk of preaching to the choir, I am reminding you to DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

Doris Buzzell

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CALENDAR

Thurs.	Oct. 2	10:30AM	Health Care Committee	pg 3	Cape Albeon Ret. Com.
Fri./Sat.	Oct. 3 – 4		Annual Book Sale	pg 7	6600 Block Delmar, UC
	Oct. 8 - 16		October Units	pg 2	
Wed.	Oct. 8	5:00PM	Housing Committee		Companion Bakery-CWE
Fri.	Oct. 10	10:00 AM	International Relations Committee	pg 4	St. Louis County Library
Tue.	Oct. 14	5:30 PM	Environmental Quality Committee	pg 3	League Office
Sat.	Oct. 18	9:30 AM	Education Committee	pg 3	League Office
Mon.	Oct. 20	7:00 PM	Candidate Forum Attorney General - Missouri		
Mon.	Oct. 20	7:00 PM	Candidate Forum Congressional Districts 1, 2, & 3		

October Unit Meetings

Ballot Issues

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, October 8
9:30 a.m. meeting

HOME OF KATHY MARET

9162 Park Haven Lane
314-842-7889
Leader: Mary Long
314-849-7045

South on Sappington to Eddie & Park. Right on Eddie & Park past Southview School. Left on Park Haven to cul de sac.

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, October 9
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, October 11
10:30 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert
314-773-8719

Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, October 14
9:15 a.m. coffee
9:30 a.m. meeting

HOME OF ELISE JOERGER

7136 Kingsbury
314-725-4829
Leader: Carol Portman
314-726-3269

North on Big Bend, 1st stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2nd block on left.

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday October 16
9:30 a.m. meeting
Noon salad lunch

HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane
314-434-5116
Leaders: Jean Srenco
314-997-1859
Marion Stuvland
636-391-7589

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

Health Care Committee



The newly formed "Health Care Committee" will hold its first meeting at 10:30am on Thursday, October 2nd at Cape Albeon retirement community. The address is 3380 Lake Bend Drive in Valley Park. All who are interested in this subject are invited to attend.

From Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry, go West on Dougherty Ferry, cross Big Bend and turn left on Lake Bend Drive. We will meet in the private dining room. Bring any information you have so that we can study a variety of suggested plans. I look forward to your participation.

Call with any questions 636- 861-7148

Katharine Kilpatric



Environmental Quality Committee

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Paper or plastic? How about canvas or microfiber? Paper bags may seem to be an acceptable choice because they biodegrade and are made from a renewable resource – trees. However, that resource could be put to other uses and the bags do take up room in landfills where they contribute to pollution. Plastic bags are light, waterproof, and an ever-increasing choice of stores and shoppers. However, the very attributes that make them attractive are what make them such a problem for the environment. They are so light that they blow around ending up in trees, in oceans and waterways and forests. They endanger animals that eat them or become trapped in them. The plastic is petroleum based. It does not biodegrade. Plastic bags photodegrade. That is, they break down into smaller bits that are increasingly toxic. The process can take hundreds of years. It is estimated that 1 trillion bags are used every year worldwide and only 1 to 3 percent are recycled. When it comes to grocery bags, remember the environmental mantra – reduce, reuse, recycle. The best choice is reusable bags made of cotton, canvas, microfiber or other materials durable enough to make the bags reusable for a very long time. Many grocery stores are selling sturdy and attractive bags at a low price and some even offer incentives to encourage their use. Many online vendors and local stores offer a wide variety of cloth shopping bags. The grocery store is one more place where we can make an easy and affordable choice to help the environment and ourselves.

The Environmental Quality committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the League office. Our next meeting will be October 14.

Nancy Bowser, Chair



Education Committee

We hope you will join us at our next meeting, on Saturday, October 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the League office.

Speakers Bureau

September brought lots of activity for our LWV speakers:

Sept. 4: LOIS BLISS for the International Assoc. of Administrative Professionals

Sept. 9: BILLIE TENEAU for St. Andrew United Methodist Church Women

Sept. 15: ARLENE NICKELS for the Crestwood Women's Club

Sept. 15: JILL SCHMIDT for 5th graders at Westridge Elem. School, Rockwood

Sept. 17: JOAN ABRAMS for the women of NAMAT

Sept. 23: NORMA JEAN DOWNEY for Friendship Village West County

Oct. 2 IDA WEST for Amer. Govt. students at Roosevelt High School

Our members are out proving that LWV is informing voters in this election year. Thanks and praises to all.

So far, for October, our speakers will go out to Roosevelt High School, Hickey College, Brentwood Condominiums, Trinity Episcopal Church, Thornhill Branch of County Public Library, St. Joseph and Holy Infant senior apartments, McKnight Place Assisted Living, Ethical Society, PEO Chapter, Shrewsbury AARP group, J Associates of JCC, Women's Alliance of First Unitarian Church, Cliff Cave Library, Orchard Terrace - and more requests keep arriving!

Marjorie Courtney, Coordinator



The International Relations Committee

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

Membership

The International Festival was a success. We had a great response from the public and elected officials, including Congressman Russ Carnahan and St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, who stopped by our booth to thank us for all our hard work in the community. During our tenure, at the festival, we had six people request membership information and had over three dozen people stop by to either give a change of address or register to vote for the first time. This proves that we supplying a vital service to the community. Thank you to all of those who worked at the International Festival including Carol Portman and all those who registered voters.

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T-SHIRTS

Great Presents for Children, Grandchildren, purchase supports the League

Yellow Umbrella
S, M, L, XL

No Vote No Voice (Red)
S, M, L, XL

No Vote No Voice (Smile Face)
S, L

Apathy Sucks
L, XL

\$10 each 3 for \$25

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome New Members: Zelda Feinstein, Cara Jensen, Julie Lawson, and Ronald W. Wilson.

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In honor of Eve & Jeffrey Golden's 35th Anniversary from Larry & Sydell Shayer to League of Women Voters Information Service.

In memory of Helene Schweitzer from Millie Wolff to the League of Women Voters of St. Louis.

We were saddened by the death of Helen Weiss. Helen supported League activities financially and League outreach programs especially voter registration.



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

National Popular Vote Compact

The League has long held the position that the Electoral College should be eliminated and presidential races should be decided by direct popular vote. In other words, the candidate who wins the election is the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide. This requires a constitutional amendment which is difficult to accomplish.

Recently, a different method of electing the president has been gaining interest. It is called the national popular vote compact. This requires states to agree to have their electors cast their ballots for the presidential candidate who receives the most votes nationwide. For example if a state had more votes for candidate A than for Candidate B, it would still have to cast its electoral votes for Candidate B if Candidate B received the most votes nationwide.

Right now states determine for themselves how they will cast their electoral votes. With rare exception, states cast their electoral votes for the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in its state. The advantage to the national popular vote concept is that fewer states would have to agree to cast their ballots this way than would be required for a constitutional amendment.

In order for the national popular vote compact to become effective, each state would have to pass the agreement in the exact same wording. The process would become operative when the states with electoral votes equal a majority of the total required to elect a president sign the compact. There are 538 electoral votes. 270 electoral votes will elect a president. So far Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey and Maryland, equal to 50 electoral votes have passed this legislation.

The League, at its last national convention in June, 2008 voted in a study on the national popular vote. Consensus is due in the national office by May 1. Our League will discuss this in a unit meeting sometime in 2009. A study committee is being formed. So far it has three members. We could use a few more. The volunteers are Sydell Shayer, Linda McDaniel, and Eve Golden. Our current plans are to meet over lunch in the Central West End on dates to be decided to accommodate Linda who works in the city. We will have other meetings as necessary but much of the communication will be through e-mail.

This promises to be a fun study and social occasion. League members make lasting friendships on League study committees. Just call the League office, 961-6869 or Sydell Shayer at 434-5116.

FALL KICKOFF DINNER UPDATE

The Fall Kickoff sponsored by the League was a huge success. Many thanks to the coordinators of the event, Eve Golden and Becky Clausen.

The event was held on September 17th at Favazzas's Italian Restaurant in the historic Italian neighborhood of "The Hill." The theme for this year's kickoff was "How Healthy is our Healthcare System?: Five Myths Concerning Health Care in the U.S." Dr. Judy Dasovich, an internal medicine physician in Springfield, Missouri, was the speaker for the dinner. Dr. Dasovich made a formal presentation regarding healthcare policy by discussing the cost-effectiveness of single payer healthcare, as well as a comparative analysis between the universal healthcare system of fellow industrialized countries and the current inefficiencies in the healthcare system in the United States.

The food was absolutely delicious and there were more than 50 guests in attendance. Members who missed the event missed a wonderful evening in fellowship with members of the League.

If you are interested in hearing about a specific public policy issue for the next kickoff event, please contact the League at 314-961-6869.

Pearlina Boyd, Executive Director

Tailgate Sale

Thanks to the donations from many of you, we had lots of items to sell at our Tailgate Sale on Labor Day and our booths earned almost \$735. We had 47 vendors and we are looking forward to our book sale on Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 to add to the total.

We could not have done it without our volunteers. At 6 A.M. Jim and Esther Clark, Carol Portman, Becky Clausen who brought her husband Craig, and son Matt, Mary Parker, Janice and Bill Dahl, Marcia Kern and her husband and Carol Washburne. Doris Buzzell, Arlene Nickels, and Enid Tennenbaum were there to sell and to help pack up afterward. As usual Sydell and Larry Shayer brought their pick up to load with the leftovers and take them to Goodwill.

To register voters we had Marj Courtney, Esther Clark, Joan Botwinick and Carol Portman. We registered 4 voters.

We owe a big thank you to Willie Mae Patton who is a regular at our set-ups but this year filled in for Elise Joerger. She was there at 5:30 a.m. with two wonderful young boys who helped unload the truck of items brought by Carl and Paul Joerger filling in for Elise and Denny Joerger who were in Chicago for a nephew's wedding bit drove back early Monday so Elise could be there for a little while to do her favorite thing. – selling at our Tailgate Sale.

Denny helped us with the barriers on Friday doing the stapling of the signs to help us reserve the space for our sale. If you have books to donate to our book sale, please call Elise Joerger at 314-725-4829 to let her know when you can drop them by or leave them at the office.



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

**Are You A
Book Lover?
Always Looking for
a Great Book?**



Annual Book Sale

**Friday & Saturday
October 3 & 4, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily
University City on Delmar (6600 block)
Between Craft Alliance & the Bread Company**

League of Women Voters of St. Louis—*Promoting an Educated & Empowered Electorate*
For information: 314-961-6869 or lwwmo@yahoo.com