



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF METRO**

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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April 2019

METRO LEAGUE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 6TH

The Annual Meeting of the Metro League will be held at the Brentwood Community Center, 2505 S. Brentwood Blvd, on Saturday, April 6th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. The main purpose of the Annual Business Meeting is to present, discuss and approve a Program, budget and slate of officers and Board Members for the next two years. Nominations and proposals are accepted from members from the floor. During the months of November, December and January, members discussed their concerns and opinions about what the Metro and LWVMO should include in their Programs for 2019-2021. The Program includes the positions and the actions to be taken on

the positions. Any local positions must have a base in a LWVUS or LWVMO position. If the position involves legislation voted on at the state level, the State Board must give their approval. The Proposed Local Positions were emailed to all Metro members last week and will be discussed and voted on April 6th. If those program requests involve state issues, they will be voted on at the state convention May 3rd and 4th in St. Louis. Our guest Speaker at our Metro meeting will be State Senator Gina Walsh (D-13) speaking about Strengthening Democracy in Missouri. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to 314-961-6869 or league@lwvstl.org.

STATE CONVENTION FOCUSES ON ELECTION REFORM

The Metro St. Louis is hosting the 64th state convention here in St. Louis on May 3 and 4. On Friday, May 3rd, Alicia Gurrieri from LWVUS will present a workshop to help League members take action on pressing voting

rights issues and stronger partnerships.

Saturday's keynote speaker is Amber McReynolds, a national leader in effective and innovative practices that increase the security, convenience and efficiency of elections. The former Director of Elections for Denver, she is now the Executive Director for the National Vote at Home Institute and serves as senior strategic adviser on various election-focused projects across the country. St. Louis City Treasurer Tishaura Jones will update the convention on proposed election reforms in Missouri.

Contact the office if you would like to be one of Metro's 24 voting delegates. Members are also welcome to attend as observers. Registration begins at 12:30 Friday. Attendees from the eight Local Leagues will meet in the Hawthorne Room at the Drury Inn Brentwood. At 7:30 Friday evening, there will be a dessert reception as the volunteer board of the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis presents a fashion show. The convention continues from 9 to 3 on Saturday, May 4. Contact Nancy Miller if you can help with convention registration, credentialing or hospitality.



Rebecca Now portrayed suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton at the March 24 Centennial Tea. See more photos on page 4.



Amber McReynolds

APRIL - 2019

MESSAGE



The April election is fast approaching. For Metro, that means the spring *Voters Guide* is printed and delivered, and Vote411.org is up and running thanks to Anne Sappington, Steve Smith, and Kathleen Farrell. The second push this month has been the Candidate Forums. Barbara Harris has organized and directed 18 this year, mostly for school board elections. Voter registrations continue with many hundreds of new citizens and high school students registered. Changes in the office have also taken place. Julie Behrens retired after 36 years of stellar service to the League. Many Leaguer friends honored her service at a retirement event at the office on Feb. 28, her last day. We are extremely fortunate to have hired Chantal Hoffsten as our new office assistant. She is off to a busy start processing the financials for Trivia Night and the Centennial Tea and learning the ropes of Metro processes, products and programs. Our winter intern, Alexis White, returns to Northwestern University on April first. Lexi contributed in many ways to our Centennial events and future outreach plans. We will be interviewing for the summer intern positions next week. Trivia Night and the Centennial Tea were both well-attended, fun events.

This week and next we are getting ready for our Metro League Annual Meeting, this year taking place at the Brentwood Community Center. State Senator Gina Walsh will be the keynote speaker. Please RSVP to the office (league@lwwstl.org or 314-961-6869) so we have an idea of how many light refreshments to have. There is no charge. As a League we need to discuss and approve a program of study and advocacy, a budget and elect officers and board members for the 2019-2020 League year.

Advocacy for our program continues. Members traveled to Jeff City on **March 25** to attend a hearing against changing the lobbyist gifts section of Amendment 1. Another group is going on **April 2** to advocate against adding a work requirement for Medicaid recipients. Show Me Integrity, the group formed to defend Amendment 1, is going to join other groups from around the state in Jefferson City on **April 10**. Go to <https://showmeintegrity.org/events> for more information.

The Women's Network Annual Equity Day is **April 16**. We mark the day a man would start working to earn in one year what a woman has had to work a full year to earn. We will join our coalition partners for presentations on issues |important to all of us: voting and elections, gun management, health care, education and others. After issue briefings, we will be off to visit our legislators. Several of our action committees are going with talking points on palm cards for anyone wishing to join us. Be sure to call the office and register so we can have rides and materials for everyone.



Louise & Nancy

Metro League is also hosting the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention on May 3 and 4. A special Centennial event will take place at Bellefontaine Cemetery on March 2. The convention at the Drury Hotel begins on Friday, May 3 at 12:30 and concludes on Saturday, May 4 at 3 pm. St. Louis is allowed 24 delegates and an unlimited number of observer-attendees. We encourage all League members to consider attending, but you must be registered. The cost is \$30. We also need volunteers to help since we are hosting this event. There will be a special dessert reception and fashion show hosted by the Metro League on Friday at 7:30 pm the Drury Hotel. After the fashion show, there will be a reception to honor outgoing state officers and board members. If you are interested, please contact Nancy or Louise at the League office. Have a great April and GET INVOLVED!

—Louise T. Wilkerson and Nancy J. Miller, Co-Presidents

2019 LWVMSTL OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: Nancy J. Miller, Louise T. Wilkerson
First Vice President: Catherine Stenger
Second Vice President: Barbara Harris
Secretary: Nancy Price
Treasurer: Steve Smith

Directors: Angie Dunlap, Eve Golden, Joan Hubbard, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Anne Sappington, Cathy Satkowski, Sydell Shayer, Carol Strawbridge
Editors: Jean Dugan, Joan Esserman
Staff: Jean Dugan, Chantal Hoffsten

ACTION ALERT: OPPOSE PROPOSED COAL ASH REGULATION

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed a new coal ash disposal rule that is significantly less health-protective than existing federal and state regulations addressing the threats posed by coal ash disposal--leaking of contaminants into ground water, blowing of contaminants into the air as dust and catastrophic failure of coal ash surface impoundments.

While DNR has regulated coal ash landfills constructed since 1997, it has not yet regulated ash ponds, despite the fact that ash ponds are more prevalent and pose greater potential threats to public health and the environment than coal ash landfills. Currently more than three dozen unlined ash ponds in Missouri (pictured) are known to be leaching contaminants, including arsenic and other metals, into groundwater. Nonetheless, the new DNR rule would not require utilities to publicly post groundwater data and other critical compliance information on the utility's website as the federal rule requires, thus concealing information about exceedances of water quality standards from neighbors, advocacy groups and the public.

DNR's proposed regulations also weaken its own existing requirements for coal ash landfills. The proposed regulations would allow new landfills to be built in unstable karst terrain, reversing the prohibitions in DNR's existing regulations. The proposed regulations would reduce the list of contaminants for which utilities must test groundwater during routine "detection" monitoring. As a result, utilities would no longer need to test groundwater for arsenic, chromium, lead, mercury and numerous other toxic analytes unless the testing for the shorter list triggers the need to proceed to "assessment" monitoring.

The LWV Metro STL agrees with EPA's conclusion that the proposed regulations fail to adequately protect human health and the environment from coal ash disposal facilities and has signed on to the letter drafted by the Washington University of St. Louis Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, addressing the rule's shortcomings to Missouri DNR.



Send a letter to urge MO Department of Natural Resources not to adopt the proposed coal ash regulations *10 CSR 80-2.010*, *10 CSR 80-11.010* and *10 CSR 80-12.010*, as written. Recommend that the DNR correct the significant shortcomings noted above. Urge DNR to withdraw the proposed regulations, commence a meaningful stakeholder process to obtain public input in addition to the input of utilities, and to propose regulations strong enough to protect the public health and environment of Missouri communities.

— Janet Kester and Mickey Croyle, EQ Committee

Environmental Tip of the Month: Save paper and switch your bills to electronic automatic payment.

NEW COMMITTEE STUDIES CITY-COUNTY GOVERNANCE

The League recently formed a new committee to study Better Together's merger proposal. Currently there are 18 members and the committee has met three times. So far we have studied the 161-page proposal found on the Better Together web site. Now we are studying the 25-page revisions to the Missouri constitution which has been submitted to the Secretary of State for a petition drive three times.

—Debby Howard, Co-Chair



At the March 24 tea kicking off the League's Centennial celebrations, more than 75 guests toured the St. Louis Woman's Club before enjoying tea and a performance by CHARIS, the St. Louis Women's Chorus. Pictured are Dorothy Lockard, Barbara Mitchell, Sydell Shayer, Pat Rich, Agnes and Dave Garino, Angie Dunlap with Linda McDaniel, and Debby Howard with Julie Behrens.



UPDATE OF NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT

By signing the *National Popular Vote Interstate Compact*, states pledge to give all their electoral votes to the candidate who won the popular vote nationwide. Two hundred seventy electoral votes are necessary for a candidate to win the presidency.

Since September, two more states have joined the compact and one more is waiting for the governor to sign the bill. The total will be 14 states joining the compact, totaling 189 electoral votes. That leaves 81 more electoral votes needed to have a direct national popular vote. Missouri with 10 electoral votes has not yet signed the compact.

All League members are urged to send letters to newspaper editors, as individuals, to inform the public about the need for changing our voting system to one in which every person's vote is equal. This is called democracy. For more information on the National Popular Vote, go to nationalpopularvote.com

—Sydell Shayer, NPV Chair

ED REFLECTIONS

We had to be flexible with weather pushing back this year's trivia night and Jean Carnahan's last-minute cancellation as speaker for the Centennial Tea. Member Rebecca Now stepped in at the March 24 tea to give a great re-enactment of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the suffragist who submitted the Declaration of Sentiments at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848.



Centennial Tea guests

We'll be busy this month with the Metro annual meeting on April 6 and the state convention here May 3-4. I hope to see you at both!

Chantal Hoffsten, our new office assistant, is working Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She jumped right in to improve our financial processes and how the League uses QuickBooks.

We're making several updates to get the League office ready for the next century, including a new Avaya phone system, and it's working fine now. We got \$2,000 worth of free phones to replace the phones that probably dated to 1995 when we moved to the office on Manchester Road. Each phone has its own extension with voice mail available on e-mail.

—Jean Dugan, Executive Director

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY OF MISSOURI PRESIDENTIAL SUFFRAGE BILL

April 5, 2019, is the 100th anniversary of a ground-breaking law passed by the Missouri Legislature in 1919, the Presidential Suffrage Bill.

In the months prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Missouri Women Suffrage Association worked tirelessly toward enactment of legislation which would enable women to vote for president and vice president. The Presidential Suffrage Bill was the first bill introduced in the new state capitol building. It would allow the women of Missouri to vote for president and vice president in the 1920 election. The bill was passed by the 50th General Assembly and in April 5, 1919 in the presence of members of the Missouri Women Suffrage Association, Governor Frederick D. Gardner signed the bill.



SIGNING MISSOURI'S RATIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

Office of Governor Frederick D. Gardner, July 3, 1919:
Seated at table, reading from left to right: Senator J. W. McKnight, Lieutenant-Governor Wallace Crossley, Governor Frederick D. Gardner, S. F. O'Fallon, Hon. W. E. Bailey.
Standing from left to right: Mrs. S. F. O'Fallon, Mrs. Nelle G. Berger, Mrs. J. W. McKnight, Mrs. J. Rudd Van Dyne, Mrs. Fred English, Miss Marie B. Ames, Mrs. George Gellhorn, Mrs. Olive B. Swain, Mrs. John R. Leighty, Mrs. Bernice Morrison Fuller, Mrs. Claud Clark, Mrs. W. R. Haight.

This month, both the Missouri Senate and the Missouri House of Representatives have issued proclamations honoring this historic event.

The Missouri Women Suffrage Association became the League of Women Voters of Missouri, an organization which one hundred years later continues its mission to educate and empower voters.

The photo at left is when Governor Gardner signed the Federal Suffrage Amendment on July 3, 1919.

LEAGUE MARCHERS NEEDED TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

Let's honor our foremother suffragists and gain the attention of the present-day public by marching in a parade this July 4. A large group can make a big statement. Like the suffragists who transformed our country, we can show that today's League is necessary for voters.

On Thursday, July 4, 2019, it will have been 100 years plus one day after the 19th Amendment was ratified in Missouri. It took decades of work for women to gain access to the ballot box. The suffragists struggled to be seen so that their grievances would be seriously addressed. The suffragists would gather in large numbers and march in parades with signs, declaring "Votes for Women." This year, the LWVSTL can imitate the suffragists seen below. But we need LOTS of marchers.

Our League could do this! A great mass of people carrying signs can tell of changes in women's lives over the last century. Starting with women getting the right to vote, then health, safety, and education reforms, world peace efforts, equal rights action, Title IX, we show that the League continues our work today—voter registrations, candidate forums, *Voters Guides*, etc. We can then point to upholding Amendment 1, ratifying the ERA and NPV as our future. This is an opportunity for the League to proudly claim the work we have done serving voters for one-hundred years and remind the public of the great work we still do today. We honor the women who came before us with our actions to serve voters now.



This year on July 4, Webster Groves is having its parade. We need enough Leaguers to make a BIG statement. It will take the commitment of many League marchers (at least 40) to make it happen. Your whole family can march; we will have a place for everyone. We will plan to have some golf carts or cars for several members who may have problems walking. The parade day would start about 9 am. Time commitment is about three hours. The length of the parade route is two miles. Remember, it will probably be hot. Please email Angie Dunlap (aok2bfast@hotmail.com) if you can be a marcher or rider in this BIG parade effort. This could be great!

LWV Civic Cocktails
Thursday, April 25
6-7:30pm
Schlafly Bottleworks
7260 Southwest Blvd
Maplewood, MO 63143
All are welcome... anyone interested in civil political conversation.

CIVIC COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

Join us in casual conversation at Schlafly Bottleworks on April 25 about the League's work this spring. As the Missouri legislature nears the end of its session, we can talk about what laws the legislature is hearing that might affect you — voting issues, healthcare programs, education policy, safety net programs, and more. You will still have time to contact your reps and senators to make your voice heard. Go to www.lwvstl.org for contact info on your elected officials.

CANDIDATE FORUMS STIR UP INTEREST

Whether or not you agree with former Speaker of the U.S. House Tip O’Neill’s often-quoted phrase, “All politics are local,” it’s certain that St. Louis voters care deeply about local elections. This is demonstrated time and again by the requests the League receives for help with candidate forums and the high regard the community has for the *Voters Guide*.



Kathleen Farrell moderated a Feb. 27 forum on candidates for President of the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen.

The city’s primary on March 5 and the municipal elections on April 2 stirred up tremendous interest and resulted in requests for 18 candidate forums that started on Jan. 29 and wound up on March 31, just two days before the election. Voters elected mayors, city council members, aldermen, directors of fire districts and boards of education in both city and county.

The forums were conducted in all sorts of locations but the site of the first of two forums held for the Bellefontaine Neighbors’ mayoral race was a first in memory held in a fire station. Chairs for the audience were set up in the garage and the engines were parked outside the door. About fifteen minutes into the forum, the alarm went off and a call went out. The firemen, who had been listening to the candidates, ran out, hopped on the truck and away they went, only to return a half hour later to resume their seats in the audience. A neighboring resident’s stove had caught on fire, but the firemen quickly put it out.

Candidate forums are an important way for voters to learn more about the people seeking election by hearing them speak and answer questions in a public forum, and in this election period over 40 League volunteers helped provide this service. We thank them and moderators Kathleen Farrell, Debby Howard, Nancy Miller, Tracey O’Brien, Sarah Riss, Nancy Thompson, Louise Wilkerson and Sue Williams.

—Barbara Harris, volunteer coordinator

TRIVIA NIGHT A SUCCESS

Due to snow on the original Feb.15 date, the event was rescheduled for March 16. LWVMSTL apologizes for any confusion or inconvenience. About 150 Leaguers and their friends and family members showed up to make the event a great success. Dan Dillon was again our emcee and he tested us with some women’s history questions in honor of the League’s centennial. We celebrated Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s 86th birthday and her important contributions to women’s rights with cake.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success by joining us and bringing others. Special thanks to our table sponsors (Angie & Terry Dunlap, Agnes & Dave Garino, Joan Hubbard, Meredith Langlitz, Gloria Bilchik & Arthur Lieber, Nancy & Bill Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Carol Portman, Yvonne Schlote and K Wentzien) and to our round sponsors (Julie Behrens, Mickey Croyle, Angie & Terry Dunlap, Barbara Harris, and Chris & Cindy Wunderlich). Helpers included Susan Fluegel, Barbara Harris, Gene and Nancy Hutchins, Chris Jones, Kay Meyer, Nancy Miller, Catherine Stenger, Bella White and Louise Wilkerson.

—Nancy Price

LET'S GO TO JEFF CITY!

EQUITY ACTION DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

9:30 am: Legislative Briefings,
House Hearing Room 2, Capitol Building
Noon: Lunch on your own

CITIZEN LOBBYING

1:00 pm: Citizen Lobbying
2:00 pm: Wrap Up in the Alcove area, 3rd Floor

RESERVATIONS

Register with Pat Shores, by April, 14, 2019
at apatriciashores@att.net or
5337 Trailhead Court, Eureka, MO 63025

ORGANIZATION _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MO WOMEN'S NETWORK SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

AAUW OF MISSOURI,
COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MISSOURI WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COALITION
MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS OF METRO ST. LOUIS
SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI FEMINISTS
STATE OF MISSOURI NOW
WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF GREATER ST. LOUIS
WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



SHOW ME INTEGRITY GATHERS APRIL 10

The League is working with two Show Me Integrity teams. The group headed by Sean Nicholson is the St. Louis Clean Defense Coalition. Members of this group from St. Louis and Columbia attended a hearing on HJR48 on March 25. This group is holding phone banks in St.

Louis City, preparing postcards for signing, and meeting with legislators. Members of the coalition include Missouri Health Care for all, Jobs With Justice, NAACP of Missouri and the Sierra Club.



Benjamin Singer is leading the other Show Me Integrity coalition that is planning an Action Day in Jefferson City to advocate and get trained to work on state and local election reforms. Training begins at 10 am on Wednesday, April 10, followed by a lunch, rally and advocacy. Its goal is to tackle the corrupting influence of money in politics, partisan games and broken elections to create a government that is not beholden to special interests. Attendees will learn about, advocate for, and prepare to run campaigns to do the following:

- Ban dark money
- Empower everyday citizens in the political process
- Fix our broken elections by allowing ranked-choice and other modern voting systems

The League is researching if its position on citizens right to vote allows members to support the group's petition on ranked-choice voting in St. Louis or if further study is required.

LWV MEMBER RAFIA ZAFAR'S *RECIPES FOR RESPECT*

Scholarship on food and literary culture constitutes a growing river within literary and cultural studies, but writing on African American food and dining remains a tributary. In *Recipes for Respect: African American Meals and Meaning*, Rafia Zafar highlights the long history of accomplished African Americans within our culinary traditions, as well as the literary and entrepreneurial strategies for civil rights and respectability woven into the written records of dining, cooking and serving. Whether revealed in cookbooks or fiction, memoirs or hotel-keeping manuals, agricultural extension bulletins or library collections, foodways knowledge sustained black strategies for self-reliance and dignity, the preservation of historical memory, and civil rights and social mobility.

Rafia Zafar is Professor of English, African and African American Studies, and American Culture Studies at Washington University in St. Louis and is the author or editor of five books.



LEAGUE'S HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY \$100 CLUB NOW HAS 74 MEMBERS

Members have given a wonderful show of support for the Metro St. Louis League and our ongoing work. Thank you for everyone who is helping us plan events and activities to celebrate our Centennial in 2019.

To join the club, go to lwvstl.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page. The Centennial committee meets again in the office at 4 pm on Tuesday, April 23.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Voters Guides, Speakers Bureau, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, unit meetings and various committees—there is something for everyone to help with. Thanks to all those helping to make a difference. The office always has clerical tasks to offer for eager hands. If you have time to help, please contact Barbara Harris, our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@LWVstl.org.

Our volunteers since our last newsletter include Connie Anthony, Liz Aurbach, Stephen Aylward, Mary Brown, Nicki Batchelor, Harold Baker, Linda Baker, Julie Behrens, Gloria Bilchik, Carol Billings, Michael Boyd, Sally Boyd, Karen Brawn, Stefany Brot, Jill Brown, Kathy Brown, Dixie Buford, Evelyn Buretta, Nicole Burgdorf, Lori Calcaterra, Rosalyn Calhoun, Kaye Campbell, Carol Candri, Christine Capstick, Pamela Carmell, James Carroll, Marilyn Chambers, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Karen Cloyd, Marj Courtney, Mickey Croyle, Jill Davis, Jean Dugan, Angie Dunlap, Barbara Ehnes, Chris Eschen, Kathleen Farrell, Lorna Frahm, Carol Frolichstein, Gloria Garidel, Eve Golden, Margaret Gray, Andrea Gross, Barbara Harris, Sheila Hayes, Debby Howard, Joan Hubbard, Lisa Humphreys, Nancy Hutchins, Andrea Jackson, Nancy Jennings, Nancy Johnson, Chris Jones, Pat Jones, Diane Kasten, Sally Keasler, Jan Keith, Meredith Langlitz, Ruth Lee, Karen Leonard, Mary Leopold, Marilyn Lipman, Dorothy Lockard, Kay Meyer, Mary Ann Meyer, Harry Meyer, Linda McDaniel, Ken McKelvie, Anna Mennerick, Nancy Miller, Becky Minogue, Cindy Mitchell, Dianne Modrell, Gretchen Moser, Rebecca Now, Riffli O'Brien, Tammy O'Donnell, Jitka Olander, Eileen Pacino, Joyce Patton, Nancy Pawol, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Carol Prombo, Kathie Quigley, Kathy Quinlan, Kathy Quinn, Barbara Rehkop, Barbara Reese, Ann Ross, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Anne Sappington, Cathy Satkowski, Molly Schaller, Yvonne Schlote, Jo Seltzer, Sydell Shayer, Jesse Shepard, Judith Smart, Steve Smith, Pat Soraghan, Laura Staley, Catherine Stenger, Katrina Stierholz, Kristina Stierholz, Maxine Stone, Carol Strawbridge, Nancy Thompson, Pam Todorovich, Susan Turk, Kimberly Turner, Iva Youklis, K Wentzien, Ida West, Joan Shannon Whitford, Louise Wilkerson, and Sue Williams. This list includes the St. Louis board members.



When you attend a board meeting, please remember to sign the volunteer book in the office so we have a record of our volunteers' hours. If you are a member of a League committee, we would like to keep track of the time you spend on League activities. We appreciate your commitment to the League. If we neglected to list your name please let us know and we will thank you in the next newsletter.

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

The Metro St. Louis League received a donation from Sydell Shayer in memory of MO Senator Jill Schupp's father, Harry Seltzer.

The League wishes to extend sympathies to the family and friends of Claiborne Handleman. She was a long-time member of the League and active in many events and advocacies. A memorial service will take place in May.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

N.M. Crooks
Chesterfield MO 63017

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mahannick@stjosephacademy.org

Cathy Heins
Festus MO 63028

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clairestolze@gmail.com

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH IS APRIL

Letters inviting you to renew your membership in the LWVMSTL will be mailed in April. Without the support of memberships, the St. Louis Metro League would not be able to defend and empower voters.

Levels of membership:

- ★ Single individual - \$75
- ★ Student - \$30
- ★ 2-person household - \$105
- ★ 3-person household - \$135
- ★ 4-person household - \$165
- ★ Silver - \$250
- ★ Gold - \$500
- ★ Platinum - \$1000
- ★ For anyone who cannot afford the individual level - \$55

Dues can be paid online on our website, lwvstl.org, or you can send a check to the League office. If paying with a credit card or PayPal, there are options for automatic annual dues renewal as well as monthly \$7 payments.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT

The goal for the 2010 state Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is to improve health and economic conditions for people with low income. In 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency, allowed states to require work or community engagement as a condition for Medicaid eligibility. Missouri opted not to expand Medicaid (MO HealthNet). Under MO HealthNet, most adults between ages of 19 and 64 are not covered. However, some children up to age 19, parents, pregnant women, disabled and blind individuals, Missourians over age 65 and Medicare beneficiaries are covered based on income. *

Missouri has not considered introducing legislation for expanding MO HealthNet due to budgetary concerns. A recent analysis by the Center for Health Economics and Policy at Washington University of St. Louis concludes that MO HealthNet expansion would be budget neutral.¹

In January 2018, CMS authorized waivers to allow states to impose work requirements for those receiving Medicaid benefits. Two bills pertaining to Missouri's imposition of work requirements are currently moving simultaneously through the General Assembly. Senate Bill 76 is waiting to be placed on the calendar and House Bill 183 has completed a first hearing.

Medicaid work requirements have been promoted with hope that more Medicaid recipients will acquire meaningful jobs. Unfortunately, as demonstrated in states that have imposed Medicaid work requirements, this has not been the case in all situation in many cases. Medicaid work requirements overall have been detrimental to Medicaid recipients, health care facilities and the economic well-being of the community and state. Those who lose health benefits experience worsened health and frequently are ones who already have a struggle finding and holding a job because of their health or need to care for family members. The prospects for finding work are low. As result of fewer people with insurance, hospitals provide less paid care, which leads to reduced revenue and increased uncompensated care costs. They find it necessary to reduce staff and services provided. Hospitals are more frequently closing due to financial issues caused by reduced capacity for those they serve to pay. These closures negatively affect the entire community.



Medicaid work requirements come with administrative complexities and paperwork requisites for the recipients. A significant number of Medicaid recipients are unable to fulfill these obligations for a variety of reasons and are removed from Medicaid as a result. Expense to the state for implementing the requirements and monitoring the work status of Medicaid recipients consumes any savings obtained for dropping the recipients off the Medicaid rolls.

On March 27 a federal judge rejected work requirements for the second time in Arkansas and Kentucky. The judge pointed that the states had not satisfactorily responded to his previous ruling as to if the work requirements "...would in fact help the state furnish medical assistance to its citizens, a central objective of Medicaid."² Please contact your Missouri representative or senator concerning this legislation

— Irma Ruebling, Chair, Health Care Committee

*Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as of 2018 is \$12,140 for individuals and \$25,100 for a family of 4. The income cap is 305% of FPL for children up to age 19, 22% for parents, 211% for pregnant women, 85% for disabled individuals and Missourians over age 65, and 100% for blind individuals and Medicare beneficiaries.

¹ Center for Health Economics and Policy, Washington University of St. Louis, Feb. 2019. Accessed 3-20-2019.

² Abby Goodnough, Judge blocks Medicaid work requirements in Arkansas and Kentucky. *The New York Times*. March 27, 2019. Accessed March 28, 2019.

UNIT MEETINGS

April is Unit Choice Month

Chesterfield/Creve Coeur: Thursday, Apr. 11, 9:30-11 am. Sydell Shayer's home at 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Eve Golden, 314.469.9985 or j.golden@sbcglobal.net

North County: Tuesday, Apr. 9, 5 to 7 pm. Florissant Valley Library. Contact: Louise Wilkerson, 314.438.8005 or louisew@scglobal.net

St. Charles: TBA. Contact: Jennifer Rushing or jrush1120@live.com

St. Louis City: Saturday, Apr. 13, 10:30 am. Trinity Episcopal Church, Euclid and Washington. Contact: Kathleen Farrell, 314.773.2876 or kathleenfarrell@earthlink.net. Topic is police oversight.

South County; South STL County Unit will NOT be meeting in April. Contact: Angie Dunlap, 636.368.6846 or aok2bfast@hotmail.com

University City/Clayton Unit: The Unit will not meet in April. Contact Nancy Miller, 314.961.6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Webster/Kirkwood: The Unit will not meet in April. Contact: K Wentzien, 314.961.0894 (home), 314.805.6950 (cell) or suitsme.prodigy.net

STUDY/ COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings below will be held at the League office at 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, Brentwood

Centennial: April 23, 4 pm. Contact Nancy Miller, 314.961.6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Early Voting: April 16, Equity Day , Jeff City, Contact Joan Hubbard, 314-753-0689 or joanhubbard@prodigy.net

Education: Saturday, April 20, 10 am. Contact Nancy Miller, njsmill@yahoo.com

Environmental Quality: Thursday, April 18, 4:30–5:30 pm. League office. Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314.395.7876 or erwincroyle@charter.net

Health Care: Tuesday, April 2, Health Advocacy Day, Jeff City. Contact: Irma Ruebling, 314.961.4539 or ruebling@slu.edu

Metro Board: Wednesday, April 24, 4:30 pm. Contact Nancy Miller, 314.961.6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

National Popular Vote: Tuesday, April 9, 1:15. 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact Sydell Shayer, 314-434-5116 or slshayer@gmail.com.

Policing Study Group: TBA

GET DOCUMENTS NOTARIZED AT LEAGUE OFFICE

Jean Dugan is now a notary public. If you need an absentee ballot or other document notarized, just stop by the League office at 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104. The office is open 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday.



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

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2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

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April 6	Annual Meeting, Brentwood Community Center, 2505 S. Brentwood Blvd. , 1:30 pm
April 10	Show Me Integrity Action Day in Jefferson City
April 16	Equity Action Day in Jefferson City
April 24	LWV of Metro St. Louis Board Meeting, 4:30 pm
April 25	Civic Cocktails, Schlafly Bottleworks, 6 pm
May 2	Suffragist Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery, 1 pm
May 3-4	LWMVO State Convention, Drury Inn, 8700 Eager Rd., Brentwood
Oct. 16-18	Centennial of Missouri League of Women Voters
Nov. 13	Centennial of St. Louis League, Banquet at the Sheldon Ballroom, Green Room