



League Committees Gearing Up, Seek Volunteers

Upcoming League Meetings

- Membership Meeting, Thursday, September 23, Hazelwood City Hall
- Membership Meeting, Thursday, October 28, Site TBD
- Legislative Breakfast, Saturday, November 13, Site TBD
- Membership Meeting, Thursday, November 18, Site TBD

Inside this issue:

<i>MML Conference - September 12-15</i>	2
<i>Park Grant Applications Available</i>	2
<i>Cash Investment & Management Seminar</i>	2
<i>St. Louis to Host Annual Brownfields Conference</i>	3
<i>Commuter Benefits - A Growing Trend</i>	3
<i>Annual Sovereign Immunity Limits Increase</i>	3
<i>Sunshine Law Amendments Effective Aug. 28</i>	4

At the direction of the Executive Board, the League will be placing greater emphasis on the work of several new committees during the coming year. While the Board has suggested several members for the committees, we are also asking for volunteers from our membership who have an interest in the workings of these groups. It is anticipated that these committees will meet quarterly, unless specific issues need to be addressed on a more regular basis. The Committees and their duties are listed below.

Economic and Community Development – The League recognizes that some areas of the County are at-risk, while most other areas also need solid development tools. The committee will examine regional issues that help grow the economic base of the County in all areas and add vitality and capacity to those areas currently threatened or likely to be threatened by trends associated with disinvestment. In addition to economic development, the committee will examine other issues that affect

the fabric of a community, such as schools, housing, crime, race, mobility, land use, and tools related to these topics. The goal is to “raise the tide for all ships in the harbor.”

Media and Community Relations – The committee will work to help the League forge a greater presence among our members, with the media, the general public, and other organizations that will help the League become a strong voice for local officials and the citizens they represent. Additionally, the committee may recommend partnerships with organizations with which the League could work for the benefit of our members and the community as a whole. In 2003, the League had a communications audit prepared to review current functions and issue recommendations for improvements. The Board has asked that this committee work with the staff to implement these recommendations.

Membership and Programs – The Board has expressed a strong desire to increase atten-

dance at membership meetings and seminars. One of the main ways to accomplish this is to develop strong programs that will be of interest to many officials. The committee will solicit and review topics for meetings and seminar programs and recommend those that are deemed to be of greatest interest and importance. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Board. The committee, at the direction of the League Board, will also work on planning a day-long seminar for League members in the spring.

Also to be appointed by President John Schuster will be the Legislative Affairs Committee. This group meets 3 to 4 times during late summer and early fall to review legislative issues from the previous year and make recommendations to the membership on policies for the 2005 session.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the League office at 314-726-1520 or by e-mail at staff@stlmuni.org. Thank you for your interest.

70th Annual MML Conference - September 12-15

The Missouri Municipal League will be holding its 70th Annual Conference from September 12-15 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

Guest speakers during the Conference include Charles Lyons, President of the National League of Cities; Captain Al Haynes, retired United Airlines Pilot; and humorist Buzz Sutherland. In addition, there will be a special appearance by explorer William Clark, through a first person performance by Patrick Lee.

Many informative sessions are planned, covering a variety of topics such as: council procedures; personnel issues; economic development tools; environmental issues;

parcs; planning and zoning; open meetings and records law; public works; and elections.

The Exhibition Hall will feature more than 100 firms, offering the latest products and services tailored to municipal needs. Several special events will be held in the Exhibition Hall, including the Grand Opening Reception, box lunch, a beer and snack party and coffee breaks. Attendees should plan to visit the Exhibit Hall often during the conference and show your appreciation to these vendors.

One of the most important functions of the conference is the adoption of the Missouri Municipal Policy, which establishes MML lobbying efforts for the 2005 session.

Attendees should familiarize themselves with the proposed policy and attend the annual business meeting on Tuesday the 14th to vote on the package of policy statements.

The registration fee is \$160 if prepaid or \$180 if billed or paid on site. Additional fees are charged for most meal events, including the annual banquet. Spouse programs are also available for an additional fee.

Housing is available at one of six hotels, with fees ranging from \$67 per night to \$95 per night. Housing and conference registration forms are available from the County League or the MML or you can register for a hotel on-line at www.springfieldmo.org/housing.

Round 5 Park Grant Applications Available

Municipalities in St. Louis County will again be able to submit applications for park improvement grants that are funded by the 20% of the 1/10 cent regional parks and trails sales tax that was approved by voters in 2000.

The Commission anticipates awarding \$3.5 million in the current funding round. Pre-application meetings will be held at the following dates and times:

Thursday, August 12 - 8:30 a.m. at the Webster Groves Recreation Center, I-44 at Elm Ave.

Wednesday, August 18 - 8:30 a.m. at the Maryland Heights Community Center, 2344 McKelvey Rd.

Wednesday, August 25, - 5 p.m. at the Normandy City Hall, 7700 Natural Bridge Rd.

Applications will be distributed at the planning meetings and are also available to be downloaded on

the Commission's website at www.muniparkgrants.org.

The applications are scored on criteria established by state statute. Successful applicants are expected to be notified in late December or early January.

Applications are due at the League office by 4:00 pm on Friday, October 29. Please contact the League office if you have questions about the grant process.

State Treasurer Plans Cash Investment/Management Seminar

State Treasurer Nancy Farmer will be holding the annual seminar on Investing and Cash Management in the 21st Century on September 22 and 23 at the Ramada Inn in Columbia. The program begins with registration and a luncheon at 11:00 am on the 22nd and concludes at 11:30 am on the 23rd. Registration

fees are \$75 prior to August 13 and \$90 after that date. For hotel arrangements contact the Ramada Inn at 573-449-0051.

The conference will include breakout sessions on:

- Electronic banking;
- Investment and trading terminology;

- Strategies for a rising interest rate environment; and
- What to do before and after issuing debt.

The League office has copies of the registration form or they are available at www.truman.missouri.edu/IPPP/STC or by calling 573-884-3381.

St. Louis to Host Annual Brownfields Conference

The America's Center in Downtown St. Louis will be the host of "Brownfields 2004: Gateway to Revitalization" from September 20-22. Registration is free (although there is a fee for optional box lunches).

Now in its 9th year, the National Brownfields Conference is the premier annual forum where stakeholders and decision-makers come together for three full day of timely, informative, and interactive educational programming; unparalleled networking connections; and enterprising brownfields business development opportunities.

During the conference there will be several mobile workshops and walking tours that highlight some of

the many positive developments that are occurring or that are planned for the City of St. Louis, inner ring areas of St. Louis County, and in Illinois. These includes the redevelopment of Wellston and the Grand Center area as bus tours, along with walking tours of parts of Washington Avenue and the Old Post Office area.

The exhibit hall is the gateway to success for hundreds of businesses, agencies, and non profits that are positively impacting the brownfields market. Providing direct access to thousands of potential customers and constituents, the annual exhibit hall is an excellent opportunity for

lenders, developers, site owners, consultants, law firms, insurers, government agencies, community groups, and others to showcase products, technologies, services, programs and research.

Again, registration is free and can be done online at www.brownfields2004.org or by filling out a registration form which can be copied and mailed to you by the League office.

For more information, phone Brownfields 2004 toll free at 1-877-343-5374.

Commuter Benefits - A Growing Trend for Employers

A growing number of St. Louis area employers have found a new way to stand apart from the competition - by making commuter benefits as commonplace as a 401k or health care benefits. In fact, they are part of a new trend of companies and agencies that recognize the value of making the ride to work less work for their employees - through free or subsidized transit passes, subsidized vanpools, the flexibility to work from home, and

other strategies.

To recognize these top-notch employers, Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT), and other local agencies have teamed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to compile and launch the first list of the St. Louis Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters. The sponsors are challenging employers throughout the region, including municipalities, to "Get on the List."

You will also find that offering commuter benefits can a be cost-effective way to reduce payroll taxes and improve employee recruitment and retention efforts.

CMT has developed a short survey that employers can complete to help determine if you qualify for this list. To request a copy, or for more information, contact CMT at 314-231-7272 or www.cmt-stl.org

Annual Increases in Sovereign Immunity Limits

In 1999 the General Assembly passed legislation to set the maximum amounts for sovereign immunity at \$2 million for all claims arising from a single accident or occurrence and \$300,000 for any one person in a single accident or occurrence. Also included was an annual escalator in these amounts based on the consumer price index. These

amounts are maintained by the Missouri Division of Insurance and published annually in the Missouri Register. The website is www.insurance.mo.gov/industry/sovimmunity.htm.

City officials should ensure that current liability insurance coverage is sufficient to meet future added amounts.

For the last five years these amounts are:

Year	All		Single Person
	Year	Claims	
2000	\$2,033,473	\$305,021	
2001	\$2,079,420	\$311,913	
2002	\$2,111,043	\$316,656	
2003	\$2,145,322	\$321,798	
2004	\$2,186,741	\$328,011	

St. Louis County Municipal League
121 S. Meramec Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

The League is seeking volunteers for several committees. Please see the article on Page I.

*Serving Municipalities in St. Louis County
since 1918.*

*See our website at
stlmuni.org*

Governor Signs Bill to Revise Sunshine Law

On June 7 Governor Holden signed into law SB 1020, which enacts major revisions to Missouri's Open Meetings and Records (Sunshine) Law. The effective date of the law is August 28 and municipal officials should be aware of these changes and should prepare the appropriate ordinance to comply with the new law. A model ordinance is available on the MML website at www.mocities.com. Some of the main revisions follow.

The bill specifies that meetings held by conference call, video conference, video chat, or Internet message board are considered public meetings and must be posted with information for the public on how to access the session. If the meeting is to be conducted by telephone or other means, the body must also post notice on the city's website and arrange for citizens to hear the proceedings.

Public votes now include votes cast in person, by telephone or other elec-

tronic means. However, roll call votes shall only be cast by elected officials if physically present. The exception to this is if a city emergency exists, less than a quorum may be physically present and record other votes by phone or other means.

The body must also allow for the recording of the meeting by audiotape or videotape, but may establish guidelines in order to minimize disruption of the proceedings. However, closed meetings may not be recorded without the consent of the governing body.

Any member of a city board, commission or committee, including staff committees, who sends an electronic message relating to public business to a quorum, when counting the sender, creates a public document that must be sent to the body's computer or custodian.

The bill also specifies that public records include records created or maintained by private contractors under an

agreement with a public governmental body or on behalf of that body. This would include documents prepared by a consultant or other professional service.

Fees for copying records are now limited to 10 cents per page for paper no larger than 9x14 inches and the hourly fee for research time cannot exceed the average hourly wage of pay for the city's clerical staff. Higher fees are allowed for oversized documents.

The new law establishes different penalties for violations of the law. If the body or members of the body commit a knowing violation, a civil penalty of up to \$1000 may be assessed and the court may award court costs and attorneys fees. If a purposeful violation occurs, the maximum amount of the fine is \$5000 and court costs and attorneys fees shall be awarded to the plaintiff. Members may object to a closed meeting and may be immune from liability for improper meeting closure.