



Upcoming League Meetings

- Friday, May 21, Annual Installation Dinner, 6:30 pm , Junior League
• Thursday, June 17, Municipal Debt Collection Services Seminar

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Installation Dinner Set for Friday, May 21

The League will hold its Annual Installation of Officers Dinner on Friday, May 21 at the Junior League of St. Louis, 10435 Clayton Rd., just west of Lindbergh.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception (cash bar) at 6:30 on the outdoor patio, followed by a sumptuous dinner at 7:30.

The after dinner entertainment will feature local comedian Jim Keith.

The cost of the dinner is \$36 per person. Registration materials have been sent to municipal clerks. Please make reservations through your clerk. Assigned seating will be on a first-come first-served basis.

In addition, all City and County legislators have been invited as guests of the League. We make every effort to seat legislators with cities from their districts.

At the dinner the League will install the new officers and Board members elected by the membership in April. They are:

President - Mayor John Schuster of Glendale;

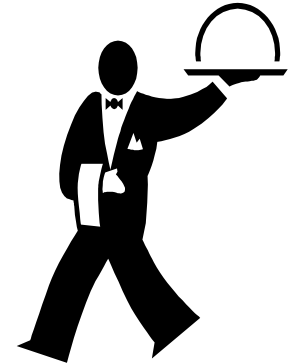
Vice President - Mayor Betty Humphrey of Richmond Heights;

Finance Chairman - Mayor John Nations of Chesterfield;

Board Members - Mayor T.R. Carr of Hazelwood, Mayor Rick Lahr of Des Peres, and

Mayor Larry Miles of Manchester; and Past President - Mayor Gerry Welch of Webster Groves.

We hope that a large contingent from your city will be able to join us on May 21 to welcome the League's new leadership team and enjoy the company of your fellow officials.



Municipal Leaders May Be Seeing STARRS

Tornadoes, earthquakes, plane accidents and more recently, terrorist attacks have all heightened everyone's awareness of the need to BE READY for anything. Well before 9-11, doctors and other emergency professionals in St. Louis

began to deal with questions like:

"Where can we find 100 empty hospital beds in a few hours?"

"How will family members know where victims are taken?"

"How will emergency personnel around the re-

gion communicate with each other?"

"Who knows where large amounts of needed drugs can be found?"

"How can one hospital send its staff to another hospital to help out?"

"How can we control (Continued on page 3)

April Membership Meeting Synopsis

At the April 22 League meeting the membership unanimously elected new officers and Board members for the 2004-05 year (see article on Page 1).

In addition, Board Chairman John Baricevic of St. Clair County, Illinois, and Jim Pennekamp, of the Leadership Council of Southwest Illinois, presented and informative discussion on the importance of maintaining Scott Air Force Base. It is important to our



Mr. Baricevic addresses the League,

national defense because Scott controls the movements of U.S. troops and supplies throughout the World. The cost to replicate the computer systems found at Scott to another location, in addition to training individuals for their use, would be significant.

Scott is also vital to the St. Louis region, serving as the 3rd largest employer, with over 13,000 jobs, including many Missouri residents.

Regional leaders are hopeful that the Department of Defense realizes the unique position Scott holds and continues to maintain it well into the future.

Following the program, League President Bill Bergfeld presented Certificates of Appreciation to all

League members who served on committees during the past year.

Thanks to President Bergfeld and the employees and staff of the City of Warson Woods who hosted the meeting for the first time.



Jim Pennkamp, Director of the Leadership Council of Southwest Illinois.

Municipal Collection Services Seminar Planned

Would you like to increase recovery of unpaid obligations owed to your city, such as outstanding traffic warrants, fee and fines, and clean-up assessments?

If so, the League is sponsoring a seminar to help our members get a better understanding on how collection agencies operate for the benefit of local governments.

It will be held at 3:30 pm on

Thursday, June 17 at the Creve Coeur Government Center, lower level meeting room, 300 N. New Ballas Rd.

The principal speaker will be Mike Nurmela, General Manager of Municipal Collection Services (MCS). Among other issues, he will discuss:

- why municipalities should consider a contractor;
- New legislation making the

process very low cost;

- How to select a contractor;
- What should be in the contract; and
- How to manage the contractor.

There is no cost for the program, but we do ask that those interested in attending contact the League office. Informational materials, including registration forms have been mailed to each city hall.

New Officials Program Attract 75 Members

Over 75 new (and a few experienced) officials attended the League's Annual Newly Elected Officials Seminar on April 29 which was designed to give new officials an introduction to local government. Municipal Attorneys Kevin O'Keefe, Ken Heinz, Laura Gerdes, and Stephanie Karr of the

Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe law firm, along with City Administrator Doug Harms of Des Peres, shared information on how councils operate, roles and responsibilities of elected officials, council staff-relations, and the laws governing cities and villages.



Attorneys Stephanie Karr, Kevin O'Keefe & Laura Gerdes presented legal issues.

STARRS cont.

ambulances to avoid overcrowding certain hospitals?"

With more pressure along with more federal money, regions across the United States have taken the preliminary work done before 9-11 and accelerated development of the systems needed to best address the questions above. The St. Louis region, including counties in Missouri and Illinois, is moving quickly. The effort involves hundreds of individuals including doctors, police and fire chiefs, county emergency management officials, paramedics, pharmacists, communication experts, hospital administrators, state and federal elected officials, corporations, specialized equipment providers, the Red Cross, the Coast Guard, and government planners. The lead agency is now known as STARRS, which stands for St. Louis Area Regional Response System.

The East-West Gateway Council of Governments will be receiving the federal funding that can be used to implement the best practices identified by STARRS for the protections of the region.

Two significant goals have been met:

- 42 hospitals in Missouri and Illinois have agreed to share staff, supplies, equipment,

and facilities. Verification of credentials recognized by all participating facilities will be next so that staff from one hospital can help at another if needed.

- A communication center (MEDCOMM) has been established to coordinate all responders in the event of a major event. Several medical professionals are available 24/7 to be contacted by any fire chief, police chief or other responsible leader in the event major help is needed somewhere in the region.

Planning is underway for many other needed services. Two examples are noted below:

- A protocol for smallpox vaccinations.
- An emergency tracking system for patients (something like a bar code for each person) will provide the name, condition, and location, perhaps through satellite tracking. This will allow EMS services and hospitals to coordinate care and allow the Red Cross help families understand the location and condition of loved ones.

Underneath STARRS is the Safety & Security Council, a regional advisory work group that will do the hard work required to accomplish the ambitious plans set forth for enhancing regional security. The current chair of the S&SC is Clayton Fire Chief Mark Thorp, well known in Missouri for his expertise in paramedic response systems.

Several committees are in the process of forming under the S&SC to suggest the best methods needed to serve citizens. Florissant Police Chief Bill Karabas is chairing the Interoperable Communications Committee whose goal is to insure that all radio users can talk with each other. Shrewsbury Police Chief Jeff Keller is chairing the ID/Credentialing Committee that would, for example, allow facilities to identify and utilize staff sent from other facilities.

East-West Gateway has hired Maggie Hales as Deputy Director of STARRS several months ago and Frank Schaper, former St Charles Fire Chief, as Executive Director of STARRS in May to assist with the federal funding expected to be around \$20 million. For more information, contact Maggie Hales at East-West at 314-421-4220 or E-mail that maggie.hales@ewgateway.org.

Website Shows Availability of Federal Grants

A new website has been developed by the Federal government that facilitates the search for grants in a variety of categories, many of which may be useful for local governments. The site is www.grants.gov.

Users can search for grants by topic or by federal department. Some of the topics listed include:

arts, business and commerce, community development, environment, law and justice, and transportation. Users can also go to links for grants in the federal departments such as Health and Human Service, Justice, Transportation, Housing & Urban Development and Homeland Security.

Users can also sign up to receive

e-mail notification as new grants are made available.

The site allows on-line application if the organization registers with the Central Contractor registry, which also has a link.

In times of tight budgets, this website may uncover funding for essential services.

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

**League Installation Dinner Set for
May 21. We hope you can join us.**

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

*See our website at
stlmuni.org*

Legislative Update (as of May 3)

As the legislature enters the final two weeks, relatively few major bills have been passed, but there are some issues of municipal concern that have been sent to the Governor's desk. These include:

- SB 730 (Gross) would authorize a property tax credit for senior citizens for increases in taxes, but would not take money from local governments. The state would repay lost funds to cities and counties through an appropriation in the year prior to the tax being levied. If there is no state appropriation, there would be no credit for the homeowner.
- Tort reform and doctors malpractice insurance. HB 1304 (Byrd) has been Truly Agreed

to and Finally Passed. The League favored language that would eliminate abuses that have caused malpractice insurance costs to discourage doctors from serving trauma centers. However, other provisions caused the Governor to veto the bill.

Other bills of interest include:

- Sunshine Law changes. SCS SB 1020 (Steelman) has passed the Senate with some improvements over the original bill. However, the House Committee Substitute reinstates many of the more objectionable provisions, such as higher fines for violations and reduced costs for copying public records.

- SB 715 was amended with both positive and negative provisions. It would authorize a 911 emergency cell phone tax on a county by county basis. This is favored by the League. However, it was also amended to allow developers, rather than cities to select the types of surety used when building subdivisions. SB 715 has passed the Senate and the House Committee.
- SS HB 795 has been amended in the Senate to include provisions related to the countywide use tax, authority of the park grant commission and the county parks sales tax. If passed by the Senate it will go back to the House for consideration of the many changes.