



October Membership Meeting in St. Ann

Upcoming League Meetings

- October 27, Thursday, Membership Meeting, St. Ann, 7:30 pm
November 5, Saturday, Legislative Breakfast, Frontenac Hilton, 9:00 am
November 17, Thursday, Membership Meeting, Ballwin, 7:30 pm
November 29, Tuesday, Planning & Zoning Seminar, Center of Clayton, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

The next League meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 27 at the St. Ann City Hall, 10405 St. Charles Rock Rd. (about 3/4 mile east of Northwest Plaza).

There will two items of business on the agenda. The first will be the consideration of a proposed bylaws amendment to allow all past presidents to serve on the League Board. (See article on Page 3)

The second agenda item will be the consideration of the Legislative Package for 2006.

The Legislative Affairs Committee report will be mailed to mayors, board chairman and chief administrative officers prior to the meeting. It will also be posted on the League website under the Current Events link.

Program: Eminent Domain and TIF - Richard Ward, Senior Principal at Development Strategies.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the authority of cities to use eminent domain for economic development purposes, interpretations of the case have ranged

widely. Legislative turmoil is common. History seems to show that the court built on previous rulings. But some are calling for Congress and state legislatures to pass new laws to ban condemnation for public purposes like revitalization. Mr. Ward will discuss background issues and offer possible legislative solutions.

TIF is also subject to Senate and House Committee review. Mr. Ward will also provide an overview of TIF issues.

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Legislative Breakfast Set for November 5

The League will hold its Annual Legislative Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 5 at the Frontenac Hilton hotel at I-64 and Lindbergh Blvd. The event is in the ballroom located above the street level parking garage. The cost is \$21 per person.

Members of the Legislative Affairs

Committee will present the League legislative priorities for the 2006 session to senators and representatives from St. Louis City and County.

In addition, the breakfast serves as an excellent opportunity for municipal officials to meet informally with legislators to discuss issues of concern to local governments.

Registration materials will be mailed to city halls in mid-October. Please plan to attend this important event.

Senators and representatives attend free as guests of the League, but your invitation to legislators can help increase their interest and attendance.

September Meeting Synopsis

At the September League meeting, the membership heard an interesting and informative presentation about emergency preparedness from Captain Robert Young, Commander of the County Office of Emergency Management. He began his remarks by indicating that it would be difficult to fully ascertain all of the emergency management problems and successes from Hurricane Katrina until a full review is undertaken.

He indicated that his office has responsibility for six major operations in the area of emergency management. They are:

- Disaster planning and response, including natural,

- man-made and technological events;
- Hazardous materials planning and response;
- Special event planning, such as the presidential debates, and the Final Four;
- Warning system throughout the County;
- Terrorism planning and response; and
- State of emergency declarations and mutual aid.

He noted that Chapter 44.080 of the State Statutes requires all municipalities to have an emergency management plan. Issues to consider when adopting or amending the plan include:

- What can occur? How often, if seasonal or weather related? What areas are most vulnerable?
- What resources and mutual aid options are available? When will they arrive?
- Know the local infrastructure, including the location of utilities and how to contact them.

Captain Young offered to hold a workshop for League members at the command center in Chesterfield to help provide a greater level of detail into emergency management.

Thanks to the officials and employees of the City of Jennings for hosting the meeting.

Board Proposes Bylaws Amendment

The League's Executive Board has proposed an amendment to the Bylaws to allow all past presidents to serve on the League Board, similar to the Missouri Municipal League.

Currently the bylaws allow three past presidents, but the Board members who submitted this proposal feel that it would be beneficial to have the experience and guidance of all past

presidents. There are currently four past presidents that would join the Board if the proposal passes.

Past presidents now on the Board are: Mayor Bill Bergfeld, Warson Woods; Mayor Bert Gates, Shrewsbury; and Mayor Gerry Welch, Webster Groves. The four past presidents who would be eligible to rejoin the Board are Mayor Virginia Bira,

Vinita Park; Alderman Richard LaBore, Crestwood; Mayor Mike Swoboda, Kirkwood; and County Executive Charlie Dooley (who was Mayor of Northwoods when elected President in 1994 and remains as an elected official in a member jurisdiction).

The amendment was presented for discussion in September meeting and will be voted on at the October meeting.

Congratulations To

Mayor Gerry Welch of Webster Groves and City Clerk Colleen Klos, of Hazelwood, who were elected to the Missouri Municipal League Board of Directors and to Mayor Rick Lahr of Des Peres, who was re-elected to the Board, at the recent MML Conference.

Welcome To

The officials and employees of the City of Edmundson, which joined the League in September. Membership now stands at an all time high of 88 County municipalities along with the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County government.

League Website

The League's Media and Community Relations Committee is recommending ways to increase visibility for the League. The Committee asks that our members link to the League website on your city's website, if not already doing so. The web address is www.stlmuni.org.

Solid Waste District Recycling Grants Available

The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District has approximately \$2 million in grant funds to assist cities and other entities with recycling efforts. The District is strongly encouraging projects designed to increase diversion and participation in residential recycling programs. This includes single-stream recycling and pay-as-you-throw projects.

The District's grant program

has no dollar maximum. In previous grant rounds, the average amount awarded has been approximately \$40,000, with a range of less than \$5000 to well over \$100,000. The District requires a minimum 10% match, which may be either a cash or in-kind contribution. A District goal is to leverage as many additional resources as possible so cooperative projects with other local governments are

encouraged.

Some eligible costs include: equipment; consulting; salaries; education; and direct costs associated with a project. District applications are currently available on-line at www.swmd.net and must be submitted by December 16, 2005.

For more information, contact the District office at 314-645-6753.

Ballot Issue Seminar Held

Several League members attended a seminar on Effective Ballot Issue campaigns on September 29 at the Maryland Heights Community Center.

Kelly Ferrara of the Vandiver Group conducted the program, which was entitled, "Community Engagement and Education in the Public Sector."

Ms. Ferrara noted that there are five different degrees of involvement by the public when considering a ballot issue. These are (from lowest involve-

ment to highest involvement on an issue):

- Mere awareness;
- Thorough understanding;
- Participation in a discussion group;
- Supportive behavior; and
- Advocacy on behalf of the proposal.

Cities need to develop a strategy of public engagement for a ballot issue to allow all interested stakeholders the opportunity to understand and participate in the process.

Under state law, cities are not allowed to use public funds to support or oppose a proposal. Therefore the establishment of an independent campaign committee allows local officials greater flexibility to explain the message behind the proposal and to advocate for its passage. Cities should limit public funds to purely informational campaigns aimed at helping voters make an informed decision.

SLACMA Hosts ISO Seminar on Fire Service Ratings

The St. Louis Area City Management Association recently sponsored a class for city managers and administrators on the ISO Public Protection Classification Program which evaluates fire protection agencies across the United States.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is a private corporation that services the insurance marketplace providing the industry with information about general fire protection services and specific fire related information on major buildings. Most, but not all, property and casu-

ality underwriters use the ISO rating as one factor in setting fire insurance rates for the community.

The ISO's Public Protection Classification evaluates the effectiveness of the fire agency and the level of its self-sufficiency. The evaluation results in a score between 0 and 100 with final scoring determining the ISO Rating which may range from a 1 to a 10. Most fire departments in St. Louis County have a Class 4 rating – a small number of Fire Protection Districts and larger municipal de-

partments (University City and Clayton) have recently achieved a Class 3 rating. Lower is better.

ISO looks at multiple factors including: 1) fire dispatch, 2) water supply and 3) the local fire department.

1) Fire Dispatch evaluates the adequacy of receiving and handling of fire alarms looking at the number and training of personnel, the number of dispatching circuits and the integ-

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St. Louis County Municipal League
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**Please plan to attend the October 27
meeting at the St. Ann City Hall.**

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

*See our website at
www.stlmuni.org*

ISO Seminar (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

ity (redundancy) of the system used to dispatch fire personnel and communicate with them on the scene. Fire Dispatch represents only ten percent of the total score.

2) Water Supply is worth forty percent of the overall score and looks at the number and location of hydrants as well as the adequacy of the overall water supply. In St. Louis County, we are very fortunate that the overall water supply provided by Missouri American Water is excellent in terms of both volume and pressure. Most fire agencies receive relatively high scores for water supply. However, communities can lose points based on the amount of water being supplied at specific locations compared to the adjoining fire hazard and required fire flow based on building size and occupancy. Oftentimes, point reductions are due to the size of older water mains or location of hydrants

on a dead end main. Cities can, if they wish, contract with the water company to upgrade water mains and/or increase the number of hydrants.

3) The Fire Department analysis looks at equipment, manpower and training and represents half of the overall points. The point scores are divided almost evenly between equipment and manpower. The amount of fire equipment (trucks & equipment on those trucks) is largely dictated by the size of the community and the type of development within, but is also impacted by geography (roads, highways, rivers) and number and location of fire hydrants. Equipment and personnel responding on a mutual aid basis from adjoining cities are counted by ISO but at a reduced rate compared to employees responding directly. Training of company personnel is a critical component of the overall score and represents the one area of the ISO rating schedule where a

community may have the most control and discretion in achieving more points.

Finally, poorer ISO scores are affected by the measure of the divergence between the water supply and the ability of the department to effectively use that water supply. An inadequate water supply will limit the ability of even the best fire department to suppress fires. Similarly, an inadequate fire department will limit the effectiveness of an abundant water supply.

In the end, the ISO rating schedule remains complicated but helps a city understand how insurance companies raise or lower rates based on the quality of fire departments, access to water, personnel and training and equipment. For those desiring more information, go to www.iso.com or contact the League for the handout from the ISO Seminar.