



April 22 Membership Meeting in Warson Woods

Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, April 22, Warson Woods City Hall
- Newly Elected Officials Seminar, Thursday April 29, 4:30 pm, Junior League
- Friday, May 21, Annual Installation Dinner, 6:30 pm, Junior League

The last League meeting of this program year will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 at the Warson Woods City Hall, 10015 Manchester Rd. (Directions: Coming from the north and east, exit I-170 at I-64 westbound. Take the McKnight Road exit and go left (south) to Manchester Rd. Turn right on Manchester and travel about 1.5 miles, past Dierbergs, to Danny O'Toole's Restaurant on the right (north) side of the road. City hall is behind the restaurant at the east end of the strip shopping center.

From the west, exit I-64 at Lindbergh Blvd. southbound. Go south to

Manchester Rd. and turn left (east). Travel approximately 2 miles to Sappington Rd. (Taco Bell is on the left.) Turn left into the parking lot and go to the east end behind Danny O'Toole's Restaurant.

We will include a map to the City Hall with the mailing to mayors and chief administrative officers prior to the meeting.

Program: Scott Air Force Base in Illinois is one of the most important economic engines in the region and is the 4th largest employer in the St. Louis area. Many of the 13,000 employees live in Missouri, but all contribute to our complex econ-

omy. The Federal Government is in the process of determining which military facilities will be eliminated in the next round of base closings and regional leaders have begun a campaign to keep Scott off of that list. John Baricevic, Board Chairman of St. Clair County, Illinois will discuss the regional impact of Scott.

The main item of business at the meeting will be the election of officers for the 2004-2005 year. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee will be mailed prior to the meeting. In addition, nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

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Newly Elected Officials Seminar - April 29

The League will hold its Annual Seminar for Newly Elected Officials at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 29 at the Junior League of St. Louis, 10435 Clayton Rd., just west of Lindbergh. The cost is \$40, which includes materials and a

buffet dinner.

We hope our new mayors, councilmembers, alderman, and trustees will join us for an informative introduction to municipal government presented by Municipal Attorneys Kevin O'Keefe,

Ken Heinz, Laura Bub Stephanie Karr.

While primarily for new officials, experienced officials are welcome as well. The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 26.

March Membership Meeting Synopsis

President Bill Bergfeld reported that several League members, along with County representatives, recently met with State Senator Mike Gibbons to discuss the impacts of proposed legislation to limit local decisions about property tax rates during reassessment years. Following the meeting Senator Gibbons modified his bill to remove these provisions. (See Legislative Update)

President Bergfeld also noted that the County Health Department has proposed updates to the swimming pool code, including public pools in municipalities. A committee of municipal representatives and other stakeholders was appointed to

review these recommendations and should be finishing its work in a few weeks. The membership will be kept apprised of developments.

The guest speaker was State Senator John Loudon. Senator Loudon began his presentation by discussing legislation that had been introduced to prohibit Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP suits).

He also indicated that as Chairman of the Labor Committee, he opposes legislation to allow arbitrators in public sector labor negotiation, a position supported by the League.

He noted that the proposals to amend the Sunshine Law are likely not needed. He has seen no

evidence of violations in his district and believes the proposed fines may be too large. He also was opposed to private businesses seeking the names of public employees for solicitation purposes.

He stated that tort reform is needed to retain both doctors and businesses. He feels that venue shopping is detrimental to improving the state's business climate. Other areas that need reform relate to health insurance and unemployment insurance.

Thanks to Mayor Mike Moeller and the employees and staff of the City of Maryland Heights who hosted the meeting.

Installation Dinner - Friday, May 21 at the Junior League

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.

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.

Earth Day Symposium - Investing in Sustainable Communities

The 5th Annual St. Louis Earth Day Symposium will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23 at the Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Garden. The focus of the program is "Investing in Sustainable Communities." Clean, fresh communities are more attractive to home buyers and businesses. More

and more developers create a greater number of enhancements than in the past without increased costs, a win-win for all.

The program offers several different areas of focus, including:

- Community Design and Water Quality;
- Green Buildings;

- Economics and Policy of Sustainable Development; and
- Dialogue for Gateway Transportation.

Costs vary depending on the sessions attended. For more information, contact Earth Day at 314-962-5838 or the website at www.stlouisearthday.org

Solid Council-Manager Relations Make Better Cities

March 12 saw 50 mayors, city managers, and councilmembers gather for a seminar on successful roles and relationships. This was the League's and the St. Louis Area City Management Association's first attempt to bring prominent speakers to St. Louis on this topic. With the help of Mayors Betty Humphrey and Gerry Welch, and City Managers Barry Alexander and Mike Schoedel, the program was modeled after one used by the National League of Cities. However, by avoiding travel, the program was much more cost-effective.

The presenters were Kathleen Novak, Mayor of Northglenn, Colorado, and Dr. Martin Vanacour, President of Dynamic Relations and a past city manager.

By involving officials, the two were able to move through the seven issues in successful council-manager relations

with significant input from those attending. They noted that it is hard to make progress if there is divisiveness on the city council. All seven keys to success must lead to community goals. Therefore the first step is to create a context and direction wherein the community can focus its energies. This "strategic thinking" typically involves citizens, other stakeholders, management, and officials who draft a plan that represents community expectations. For example, one community might desire low taxes and few services, while another seeks more services and is willing to pay more.

Then managers and officials must put their best foot forward to implement the tasks. To be effective, both managers and elected officials should: 1) avoid turf wars; 2) negotiate

tasks; and 3) agree on communications, collaboration and measuring success.

In summarizing 8 hours of discussions and demonstrations, the leaders stressed trust, understanding, relationships and strategies, as hallmarks of successful cities.



City Administrator Mark Levin of Maryland Heights and Mayor Betty Humphrey of Richmond Heights (C) participate in one of the hands-on demonstrations with Mayor Novak (L).

APA to Hold Annual Planning Workshop on April 22

The St. Louis Chapter of the American Planning Association will hold its Annual Planning Workshop from 5 - 9 pm on April 22 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The 2004 session brings professional and citizens planners together for an evening of learning and informal exchange. The program includes pre-workshop sessions, in conjunction with the Earth Day Symposium (see article on Page 2), in addition to the planning session, where par-

ticipants can choose one of three tracks:

- Design, including traditional neighborhood design;
- Development and Financing, with a session demystifying the development process;
- Planning 101, including legal issues in planning and zoning.

Municipal planning and zoning

members, especially new members, are encouraged to attend. The cost for elected and appointed municipal officials is \$15 if paid before April 15 or \$25 if after that date. The pre-conference workshops through the Earth Day program have separate fees.

The League office has copies of the registration form. For more information, contact Ada Hood at the City of Clayton, 314-290-8450.

Cities can Link Local Events with St. Louis 2004

St. Louis 2004 plans a series of signature events including:

- The return of the Giant Ferris Wheel to Forest Park;
- The Olympic Diving Trials;
- The Olympic Centennial and Torch Relay;
- River Splash - a spectacular laser and multimedia show projected on a wall of water;

- Eats Bridge - dining on the bridge with skyline views; and
- The Grand Finale First Night in Grand Center.

In addition to the Signature events, the Partner Program features other groups producing public events through out the region. Cities can promote local festivals through St. Louis 2004 by going to

the website www.celebrate2004.org and click on the Become a Partner link. Benefits include:

- Customized Web windows on the website;
- Mentions in 2004's monthly newsletter;
- Spots in 2004 weekly updates;
- Inclusion in Celebrate 2004

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

**Congratulations to All Newly Elected
and Re-elected Municipal Officials. Plan
to attend our upcoming meetings.**

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

*See our website at
stlmuni.org*

Legislative Update

As the legislature enters April, floor debate will become more prevalent as most bills have had hearings. At press time, the House had still not passed the budget, which may lead to tension with the Senate.

Some of the major bills include:

- Sunshine Law changes. SCS SB 1020 (Steelman) has passed the Senate. It would allow fines up to \$1000 for knowing violations and up to \$5000 for purposeful violations. It would also establish copying fees. It is now in the House.
- SB 715 (Goode) 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 desired to ensure completion of subdivisions. SB 715 has passed the Senate.
- 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. Differing versions of the bill have passed each chamber so it is in a conference committee.
- Tort reform and doctors malpractice insurance. HB 1304 (Byrd) passed the House and passed the Senate Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. The League supports legislation that would eliminate abuses that have caused malpractice insurance costs to reduce doctors serving trauma centers.
- SB 960 (Gibbons) affects property tax laws principally in St. Louis County only. County and municipal officials met with Senator Gibbons on March 5 to clarify issues. Following this meeting, Senator Gibbons removed the language from the bill that would have restricted rates. We appreciate his willingness to amend this bill.