



MARCH 2009

Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, March 26, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Black Jack
Thursday, April 23, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, University City
Thursday, April 30, Newly Elected Officials Seminar, Sheraton Westport
Friday, May 29, Installation Dinner, Marriott West
Thursday, June 11, Golf Tournament, Florissant

March 26 League Meeting in Black Jack

The next membership meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 26 at the Black Jack City Hall, 12500 Old Jamestown Rd. (Directions: from I-270 go east to New Halls Ferry Road exit. Go straight across New Halls Ferry onto the service road for 1/4 mile to Old Halls Ferry. Turn left onto Old Halls Ferry and go over I-270. Continue 2 miles on Old Halls Ferry as it becomes

Parker Road. Continue east on Parker Road past Walgreens to the stop light at Old Jamestown. Turn left on Old Jamestown. City Hall is next to an apartment complex on the right.

Program: The future of transportation in Missouri is uncertain as Amendment 3 funds are exhausted, leaving no new money for future needs. The Missouri Transportation Alliance

is working to develop a new comprehensive transportation vision for our state.

Susan Stauder, RCGA Vice President and district co-chair of the Alliance will attend the meeting to discuss how they will be seeking input for development of a vision for future transportation funding and how new revenues would impact the St. Louis region.

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League Announces Innovation Awards

The League's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 1st Annual St. Louis County Municipal League Innovation Awards. The purpose of the Awards program is to highlight municipal projects that solve city prob-

lems creatively.

Projects will be judged by a panel appointed by the Board.

The Application has been sent to all member municipalities and is available on the League's website, www.stlmuni.org under the Current Events link.

Please return applications to the League office by Friday, April 24, 2009 by email, fax (314-726-1520) or mail.

Winners will be recognized at the Annual Installation Dinner on Friday, May 29.

Board Acts on Unfair Stimulus Allocation

Following the membership's vote to oppose the distribution of federal stimulus funds for roads, the Board asked MoDOT to leave other MoDOT

funds in place, rather than substituting stimulus money for them. This would allow \$28 million to be added to the stimulus program without penaliz-

ing any project and St. Louis County and the municipalities would be treated fairly.

February Meeting Synopsis

At the February meeting the membership heard a presentation on the federal stimulus package from Jim McHugh, District Director for Congressman Russ Carnahan. Mr. McHugh noted that the majority of the stimulus dollars will be allocated to help the general public who are facing job layoffs, the loss of Medicaid benefits, and the risk of foreclosure. The law will provide nine months of COBRA coverage for laid-off workers.

The bill also will fund school construction bonds and changes to industrial revenue bonds to help with economic development. Additional funding will be

provided for the COPS program, but only enough to add about 6000 officers. Under discussion is trading congestion funds (CMAQ) with other funds to help provide operational revenue for Metro.

Mr. McHugh said that it appeared that East-West Gateway's recommendation for highway projects are for areas that are not depressed, which is not in the spirit of the law. He also recommended that members access the Governor's stimulus website, transform.mo.gov to secure information on how to add projects to a state list.

Following the presentation, the membership voted to oppose the

transportation plan approved by East-West Gateway because no municipal projects or older areas were awarded funds from the new stimulus package.

The membership also discussed the April "Green" appliance sales tax holiday and approved a motion to request that St. Louis County refrain from opting in to the tax holiday. The County controls the one cent countywide sales tax and League members believe that opting in to the holiday would reduce local revenues.

Thanks to Mayor Gary Guittar and St. Ann officials for hosting the meeting.

Nominating Committee to Meet in April

The League's Nominating Committee will meet in early April after the municipal elections to make recommendations to the full membership on a slate of candidates for officers and board members.

There will be at least two vacancies to be filled. The Board meets about ten times per year.

The Board is open to any elected official. If you would like to be considered by the Committee, please send a letter to the League office by April 3 indicating your interest.

The staff will compile all of the letters received for the Committee for their review and recommendations.

The Committee will be chaired by Mayor T.R. Carr of Hazelwood, Immediate Past President. Additional committee members will be announced at the March membership meeting.

The recommended slate will be presented to the membership at the April meeting.

Treasurer Zweifel Touts Linked Deposit Loan Program

State Treasurer Clint Zweifel recently spoke to the League membership at the Annual Legislative Luncheon in Jefferson City. Mr. Zweifel discussed his proposal to support new and existing businesses by enabling borrowers to receive lower interest rate loans through the State Linked Deposit Loan program.

The goal of the program is to invest in Missouri-based companies and agricultural operations, leading to job creation, economic expansion and stronger

communities. Under these programs the State Treasurer's office places State funds at a reduced interest rate with local financial institutions, thus allowing eligible borrowers to obtain lower interest loans from the same bank. Savings to the borrower are generally 25-30% of their interest costs, and there are only a few administrative requirements for borrowers and their bank.

The State Treasurer's office operates five main Linked Deposit Programs with a total alloca-

tion of \$720 million. Legislation has been introduced to implement this change. Mr. Zweifel believes it will be advantageous for Missouri's continued growth and economic recovery.



Treasurer Clint Zweifel

2009 Bills of Municipal Interest

The legislature has had hearings on a number of bills and is beginning floor debate on many of these

If any of our municipal officials would like to receive this email update, along with meeting notices and newsletters, please contact our office at 314-726-4747 or by email at staff@stlmuni.org.

Bills we are tracking this year include:

SS SB 7 (Griesheimer) – Is a Senate Substitute that has become an omnibus local government bill. It contains clarifying language for collection of the sales tax for interoperable communications, which the League supports. However, it also contains authority for fire districts sales taxes of up to one percent, which would seem to increase the salaries already at the top without helping municipal police or firefighters.

SB 19 (Bray) – Streamlined sales tax act that would help taxing entities receive sales taxes from out-of-state sellers, including internet sales. (Support)

SB 20 (Days) – Payday loan restrictions. Prohibits lenders from renewing loans of \$500 or less and limits interest rates to 15% for the first month and 3% per month thereafter.

SB 102 (Green) – Mandatory bidding procedures for political subdivisions which have not adopted regulations.

SB 174 (Griesheimer) – Property tax rates. Corrects errors in SB 711 from 2008. (Support)

SB 309 (Bray) – Bans smoking in public places. (Support)

SB 472 (Ridgeway) – Requires political subdivisions to post monthly expenditures on their

website.

SB 473 (Bray) – Requires public employee collective bargaining with binding arbitration (Oppose)

SJR 4 (Cunningham) – Reassessment would only occur upon property sale and the growth in assessment would be limited to the amount of the CPI. (Oppose)

HOUSE BILLS:

HB 102 (Wildberger) - Limits the increase in the assessed value of homestead property owned by a senior to the same percentage as the increase in the federal Consumer Price Index in each reassessment cycle. The tax rate imposed upon the homestead property cannot increase until the eligible owner sells the property. Political subdivisions will be reimbursed by the state for lost revenue.

HB 108 (Bivins) – All closed meetings must be taped verbatim and kept for 18 months so they could be used in court to prove a violation of the Sunshine Law (Oppose)

HB 150 (Still) – Payday loan restrictions. Similar to SB 20 (Support)

HB 241 (Yates) – Imposes numerous regulations on the use of red light cameras and designates fines to schools. (Oppose)

HB 316 (Jones, 89) - Would require public comment periods at all public meetings and five business days notice - instead of the current 24 hours - for governmental bodies to meet on issues such as tax increases, TIF projects, zoning and eminent domain. Governments would be barred from taking a vote on such issues for 30 days if they don't give enough notice. In in-

creases fine to \$8000 for purposeful violations. (Oppose)

HB 329 (Kraus) – Exempts seniors from property assessment increases. State could replace lost revenue. (Oppose)

HB 334 (Burnett) – Increases municipal court fines to \$1000. (Support)

HB 353 (Dusenberg) – Exempts seniors from property taxes beginning in 2010. State could replace lost revenue. (Oppose)

HB 472 (Low) – Allows loans to cities, businesses and citizens for green initiatives and renewable energy (Support)

HB 541 (Kraus) – Traffic camera fines would go to schools. (Oppose)

HB 591 (Sutherland) – Citizens could petition for a vote to lower property tax ceiling. Must be approved by 60 percent of voters. (Oppose)

HB 664 (Smith 150) – Phases out personal property taxes on vehicles. Heard in Ways & Means Committee 2/19 (Oppose)

HB 789 (Corcoran) – Allows surplus sewer lateral funds to be allocated to other budget categories.

HB 952 (Sutherland) - State sales tax holiday for month of July. Cities could opt in.

HJR 5 (Fallert) – Constitutional amendment to ban smoking in public places (Support)

HJR 16 (Kingery) – Constitutional amendment to extend legislative term limits from 8 to 16 years. (Support)

HJR 23 (Icet) – Taxpayers bill of rights which would limit state spending. (Oppose)

HJR 24 & 25 (Harris) – restricts eminent domain. (Oppose)

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

Please join us at the next membership meeting on March 26 in Black Jack.

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www.stlmuni.org*

Trouble Finding Stimulus Grants? The League is Working to Help

To help sort through all of the confusing data about stimulus funding, the League has asked one of our graduate students, Jillian Callanan, to research the federal and state websites to learn about upcoming grants and to forward this information to our members in a timely manner. Grant applications will be announced sporadically and we feel by offering this assistance, St. Louis County municipalities will be better prepared to take advantage of the stimulus opportunities.

Hazard Management Plans Must Be Adopted for Assistance

East-West Gateway is currently reviewing and updating the All Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2004 for the region as required by FEMA. This will lead to an update and community adoption of the Plan as a condition on any state or local government wanting to apply for federal mitigation grants. Gateway invites a representative from each city to participate in a Hazard Mitigation Workshop which will be held from 3:00 - 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 1 at the Maryland Heights Community Center, 2344 McKelvey Rd. RSVP by March 27 to Joyce Collins-Catling at 314-421-4220 or joyce@ewgateway.org.

New Boundary Commission Members Appointed

The Boundary Commission has three new members beginning in March 2009. Two appointees were named by a joint panel of League and County representatives. They are Attorney Leslie Tolliver-Rogers and former Richmond Heights Mayor Betty Humphrey. In addition, the mayors of cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population met recently and selected Jack Schwartz of Creve Coeur as a new member.

We thank Mary Schuman, Matt Armstrong and Frank Kenney for their service on the Commission.