

For it is in giving that we receive.
—*Francis of Assisi*



As you know, I write this letter in November before Thanksgiving. If you already have checked the dateline on p 1 or the boxed article there, you will have noticed that this *Voter* is a double-month issue for both December and January, ironically a month when we give and a month when we give thanks that we are finished giving.

Now is the time in many places of worship that stewardship efforts peak: one oft-sounded, alliterative theme is “Giving of Time, Talent and Treasure.” In our busy secular lives, time is perhaps the most valuable among these. In December each of us will have the chance to join a unit meeting and hear about our study of Montgomery County alcohol sales, a session that will likely lead to a decision about the League’s position, since the state and county governments are both pondering legislation on the subject.

Our next Trending Topic at the end of January is under consideration. Watch for a notice in January.

Giving of one’s talent to the League is also something that is important. Linda Silversmith, who chairs the Natural Resources Committee, recalls that when she first arrived in the county, more than 20 active people served on it. Now just 4-5 members do so. If environmental issues intrigue you, this is the perfect committee for you to join. In addition, you can read an appeal from a new committee in this issue. Health and Human Services is seeking members and ideas for its “umbrella” concept.

Program Planning punctuates January. If there is an issue that is near and dear to you, come and advocate for it. Perhaps you can lend your talent to organize a study about it too.

Of course, no musing on giving would be complete that omitted money. Money is what keeps our League office open, the *Montgomery Voter* on its way, and the *Voters’ Guide* guiding. Please give generously when you receive your LWVMC end-of-year fundraising letter. The contributions you make are vital. They let us all pursue noble work.

Remember, although you should look for a mailing about Program Planning in the first full week of January, your next *Voter* will splash down in February.

—*Linna*