



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 77, No. 3

MARCH, 2012

Election Forum



The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County and the Columbia Public Library are sponsoring a Candidate/Ballot Issue Forum on Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library with refreshments at 6:00 p.m. (In the February Voter we also had planned a forum for March 8th, the March 8th forum has been cancelled due to the number of uncontested races.) The candidate races included in the March 13th forum are: City Council Wards 2 and 6 and Columbia School Board. Dr. Chris Belcher will speak and answer your questions about the school ballot issues.

The League of Women Voters does not endorse any candidates. LWV may endorse ballot issues, but we do not provide our position at our forums. LWV is political, but non-partisan.

Carol Schreiber, Chair
Voter Service

A Must-See Documentary - Kilowatt Ours



On Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m., the League will host a special public screening of the award-winning documentary, "Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America," in the Friends Room of the Columbia Public Library. This timely, solutions-oriented film investigates the sources of our electricity and demonstrates practical, affordable solutions to America's energy crisis, starting at the light switch.

Following the screening, Tom O'Connor, Water & Light Advisory Board member, Environment and Energy Commission member and owner of H2O'C Engineering, will share some of the innovative measures he used to cut his household electric bill by 80%. He will also talk about W&L's energy-saving incentives and invite audience questions. In addition, Monta Welch, founder of Columbia Climate Change Coalition, will talk about Columbia's celebration of Earth Hour on Saturday, March 31 and the ways people can participate.

The Columbia Climate Change Coalition, the Columbia Public Library, and the Osage Group of the Sierra Club are co-sponsoring this free, public event. Please join us for refreshments at 6:30 pm.

Win Colwill, Co-Chair
Energy Matters Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

March

- **Energy Matters, Thurs., Mar. 8, 9:30 am, Library**
- **Civil Liberties Mtg., Thurs., Mar. 8, 1:15 pm, Library**
- **LWVMO Board Mtg., Sat., Mar. 10, 9:30 am, Boone Tavern (location may change)**
- **Board Mtg., Mon. Mar. 12, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric**
- **Election Forum, Tues., Mar. 13, 7 pm, Library**
- **Education Com. Mtg., Mon., Mar. 19, 6:30 pm, Library**
- **Privatization Consensus Mtg., Wed., Mar. 21, 7 pm, Apt. 3101, 1700 Forum Blvd.**
- **Privatization Consensus Mtg., Thurs., Mar. 22, 12 noon, Library**
- **Advancing Renewals in the Midwest Conference, Mon., Mar. 26**
- **Documentary Film & Discussion, "Kilowatt Ours," Tues., Mar. 27, 7: pm., Library**
- **International Earth Hour Observance, Sat. Mar. 31, 8:30-9:30 pm**

Fact Checking

Want to check the accuracy of allegations or emails? Go to ...

www.politifact.com or
www.factcheck.org
www.snopes.com

Privatization Study Consensus Meetings



After lively discussions in February, the local Privatization Study is drawing to a close. League members will meet to achieve consensus on the questions provided by the national League in two separate meetings. The Privatization Study Committee will then combine those results to share with the local board and then forward to LWVUS by the May 1 deadline. These meetings are

Wednesday, March 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Apt. 3101, 1700 Forum Blvd. (Liz Schmidt's)
 Thursday, March 22, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Library

Please come to participate in the consensus process!

"When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living in society, they create for themselves, in the course of time, a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it."

***Frederic Bastiat,
 French economist, philosopher, judge, politician who lived from 1801-1850***

Missouri Women's Study Highlighted for March CAT TV Show



The Missouri Women's Report will be released in March 2012 by the Women's Policy Alliance and the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis. The report covers these topics: Health-Care Access and Well-Being; Workforce and Education; Economic Justice; and Civic Engagement.

Women's Policy Alliance board member, Kristin Metcalf-Wilson DNP, will participate in the panel. She played a significant leadership role in the project and coordinated the advisory committee and the focus groups, contributed background research and writing and served as liaison between WPA and OSEDA. League member, Elaine Blodgett, will also be part of the panel and will specifically address the section on women and voting in Missouri.

The program will be shown live on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. on Charter Channel 85, Mediacom Channel 21 and Century Link Cable Channel 603. The program will be re-shown on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 7:00 a.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. You can also access the program at www.columbiaaccess.tv.

Carol Schreiber

Columbia Earth Hour Observance Events March 21- 31

On Saturday, March 31 the Columbia Climate Change Coalition (CCCC) and the League's Energy Matters Committee encourage League members and all Columbians to join people all across the world in switching off non-essential lights from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM in observance of International Earth Hour. This united action is a reminder that we all have one thing in common - planet Earth. Earth Hour sends an urgent message that each of us can take positive steps to reduce the impact of our energy system on the planet and help stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment.



The CCCC, in collaboration with the City of Columbia and local organizations, has planned a series of events leading up to Earth Hour. On Wednesday, March 21, two documentaries will be shown back-to-back at the Boone County Government Building followed by public discussion: "Everything's Cool" at 5:30 p.m. and "Deep Green" at 7:30 pm. The first details the misinformation and obstruction of climate science which has delayed action to combat climate change; the second just-released documentary highlights the best of what is being done to build a new energy future and combat climate change.

On Thursday, March 22 Columbians are invited to gather at noon in the new City Council Chambers for the reading of the Mayor's Earth Hour Proclamation and a tour of the building to view the "green" features which enabled the building to be awarded the prestigious Platinum LEED rating.

Columbia has long been a state leader in promoting energy awareness, conservation measures, and renewable energy. Nevertheless, we all know there is more that each of us could do in our daily lives to reduce our ecological footprint and extend the value of Earth Hour beyond one day. Let's make that commitment now.

Win Colwill, Co-Chair
Energy Matters

Membership

Welcome to our newest members!

Ginny Van Hove, 1610 Doris Drive, 65202 442-4321 gvanhove@centurytel.net

Melissa C. Sharp, 4504 Oakview Drive 65202 881-7395 melicorstem@yahoo.com

Gregg and Diane Rizzoto Suhler, 902 Timberhill Rd., Columbia 65201 443-0549
drsuhler@ccis.edu



Energy Committee Report

On February 9th, Barbara Buffaloe, Columbia's Sustainability Manager spoke to the Energy Matters Committee at its monthly meeting. From the discussion, we found that the League of Women Voters can help her by sharing the Report Card on the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement when it is completed by Earth Day April 22nd. This is an item of keen interest to all Leaguers.

During Buffaloe's tenure, all city buildings, with the exception of those with swimming pools, have had an energy audit, and work is now being done for retrofits wherever needed using a \$609,000 grant for that purpose.

Taking a Look at the Achievement Gap



The Education Committee met on January 16, 2012 to discuss cultural differences in the classroom and the achievement gap. Dr. Peggy Placier, MU College of Education Associate Professor and LWV member, provided the group with an introduction to the topic that stimulated a lively discussion. This article provides a summary of the information Peggy shared with the group.

In education, an achievement gap refers to a disparity on educational measures between groups of students. In the United States, the term achievement gap is frequently used to refer to disparities in educational performance between African-American and Hispanic students and their non-Hispanic white peers.

Prior to the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court decision, the dominant explanation of the achievement gap in the US drew on two contradictory cultural beliefs. First, it was popularly held that achievement gaps were to be expected due to genetics. This view was seen as justification for differentiated tracking in schools (accompanied by emphasis on IQ tests). At the same time, most people felt that the United States society functioned as a meritocracy and that success was earned. From this perspective, public education provides a level playing field for all students so any achievement gap is due to natural talent and hard work.

In the years since the *Brown* decision, educators and scholars in the United States have tended to hold one of three dominant ideologies about culture, class, and schooling. Each theory focuses on a different aspect of education as being “the problem.” First is the Cultural Deficit Theory. In this theory the problem is the home environment. Children that come from “culturally deprived” homes or “inferior cultures” need to be socialized into middle class culture. This view led to the War on Poverty programs, early childhood prevention programs, and others.

Second is the Cultural Difference Theory. Here the teachers are seen as the problem. In this view, those who hold the “cultural deficit” perspective (described just above) are biased toward middle class culture. In the cultural difference view, the achievement gap actually results from teachers’ lack of understanding about cultural differences, so the solution is found in multicultural education and better teacher development.

Third and last is the Cultural Democracy Theory. In this case, society is seen as the problem. Achievement gaps reflect the fact that some groups have been deprived of power. Schools are seen as maintaining this problem and are too slow to change. The solution is not to blame students, parents, or teachers, but rather to change society in a way that creates fairness.

At the same time, in the U.S. media and in our legislative bodies the dominant explanation for the achievement gap is that schools and teachers don't work hard enough, or aren't accountable, or need more standards and assessments. However, scholarly research indicates that the best predictors of academic achievement are twofold: the education levels of students’ parents, and family socioeconomic status.

The Education Committee will look at local and state data related to the achievement gap at a future meeting and also will consider whether this would be a good topic for a future public forum.

Ava Fajen, Chair
Education Committee



League Snow Policy: If school is cancelled by the Columbia Public School district, all League activities for that day are also cancelled.

LWVUS Program Planning

I am pleased to report that at our League's Program Planning meeting on January 19 we passed the following. It has been sent to the LWVUS. I thank all of you, and Peace Committee members particularly, in the support you have provided over the last three years to move this idea forward.



The LWV of Columbia-Boone County (MO) proposes the adoption by LWVUS of a national study in support of violence reduction in the United States and the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace.

This study strongly supports League positions on Social Policy and International Relations by advocating the establishment of a Department of Peace.

In the Social Policy area emphasis is on violence reduction programs through 1) school based educational programs which teach children conflict resolution techniques, and 2) programs which reduce domestic violence and the associated violence against children by widely applying best practices throughout the country.

In the International Relations area the Department of Peace focuses U.S. attention on 1) training professionals to peacefully assist with both pre and post conflict situations, and 2) responding to potential problems early before they become armed conflict.

Both areas train professionals in the discipline of conflict prevention and management. This is done through a Peace Academy and grants to educational institutions around the country.

A cabinet level Secretary of the Department of Peace provides greater opportunity to address developing problems early and with a wider set of tools than the more limited tools currently available to the government.

The Department's programs to reduce violence have both human and economic savings for the government and individual citizens.

Dick Parker, Chair
Peace Committee

As Mankind becomes more liberal, they will be more apt to allow that all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protections of civil government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations of justice and liberality.

-George Washington

LWVUS Website

Have you checked out the new LWVUS website? Are you getting all the information you want from the League? If not, you may want to go to www.lwv.org to the changes.

To get on one or more discussion lists, LWVUS Board member Norman Turrill has offered the following: "The subscription page for the discussion lists has moved out of the Member section to the Login section of the new website. (Very little in the new website is now protected by the login.) You can access it by clicking on LOGIN at the upper right of every webpage. After getting logged in, click on "[League Sponsored Email Lists](#)" on the left side, select the discussion list(s) that you want (or unselect those that you don't want) and click on the "Submit Changes" button at the very bottom. You should be sent a confirming email message that you will have to respond to.

You can also by click on "View Recent Posts" to access previous messages for any discussion list on this subscription page. You will then have to login again to the Lyris discussion list server."



Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline



The following letter was sent to each Senator by the League and its partners on February 10, 2012, and was signed by the chief executive officer of each organization. See below for the names of the organizations.

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to express our vehement opposition to any and all legislation that would approve the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The Keystone XL pipeline would transport toxic tar sands from under Canada's Boreal forest 1,700 miles to the Gulf of Mexico to be refined and exported. President Obama firmly rejected the permit for this project last month. Pending legislation would effectively turn Congress into a permitting authority, bypassing a robust environmental and safety review and approving a project for which a route has not even yet been determined. These efforts must be rejected. Congress should not be in the business of short-circuiting environmental and safety reviews to permit the individual pet projects of big oil.

The environmental and safety dangers from the pipeline are clear. First, tar sands oil is the most carbon intensive source of oil on the planet—the production process alone generates three times as much global warming pollution as conventional crude oil. Developing tar sands is also destroying important forest lands that act as a carbon reservoir, further contributing to climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline would contribute an additional 27 million metric tons of CO₂ annually – or the same amount of global warming pollution created by adding 4.8 million vehicles to the road, which would accelerate health impacts from global warming that are already occurring.

Moreover, the pipeline would do little for our energy security. Its main purpose is to make this oil available for export. Keystone XL would divert Canadian oil from refineries in the Midwest to the Gulf Coast. These refineries are in Foreign Trade Zones where oil may be exported to international buyers *without* paying U.S. taxes.

By redirecting oil that is currently being shipped to the Midwest, Keystone XL would also serve to increase the price of fuel in the Midwest by \$4-6 billion dollars in the first year of operation alone¹. This increase in price has caused farmers across the country to voice their opposition to this dangerous and costly project.

Finally, the pipeline itself poses grave dangers to America's vital water resources. Tar sands oil is more acidic and corrosive than conventional oil and transported under higher pressure, posing a far greater risk of leaks along the pipeline route. This is not just a theoretical problem. Over the last five years, pipelines in Midwestern states with the longest history of moving Canadian tar sands have spilled three times as much crude per pipeline mile as the national average. The Keystone I tar sands pipeline was predicted to spill 1.4 times per decade, yet spilled fourteen times in its first year of operation. Last summer, an older pipeline system carrying tar sands oil spilled more than 800,000 gallons into Michigan's Kalamazoo River, causing health effects in a majority of Calhoun County residents living adjacent to the river. At a cost of over \$725 million, this spill has been the most expensive U.S. pipeline accident on record.

The facts reveal this pipeline was never in America's national interest. Clean energy and fuel efficiency is the path forward for economic and energy security in America – not another tar sands pipeline. By rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline, President Obama helped move America down a cleaner, safer path.

Congress is now considering legislation that would preempt America's environmental laws to approve a pipeline for which a route does not exist. With this precedent, will the next Congress approve a project in your state while preempting the health, environmental, and safety laws that protect your citizens and your state's farmlands? We urge all members to oppose any and all attempts to pass legislation that would short circuit the laws our nation has relied on to balance development with protecting our country for future generations.

Sierra Club • Natural Resources Defense Council • League of Conservation Voters • Greenpeace • Environment America • Earthjustice • Friends of the Earth • Energy Action Coalition • Center for Biological Diversity • 350.org • Physicians for Social Responsibility • The Wilderness Society • Center for International Environmental Law • Voices for Progress • League of Women Voters • Indigenous Environmental Network • Oil Change International • American Rivers • Public Citizen • Bold Nebraska • Global Community Monitor • Labor Network for Sustainability • Endangered Species Coalition • Safe Climate Campaign • Don't Waste Arizona, Inc. • Earth Day Network • Climate Solutions • Green America • Institute for Policy Studies • Clean Water Action • Dakota Resource Council • Nebraskans for Peace • US Climate Action Network • National Tribal Environmental Council • Environment Northeast • Rainforest Action Network • Defenders of Wildlife

Officers

President: Linda Kaiser (474-1407)
1st Vice President:
2nd Vice President: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
Secretary: Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
Treasurer: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

Board Members & Committee Chairs

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CAT TV: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen (449-2149)
Communications: Maydell Senn (445-7844)
Discussion Groups/Unit Meetings: Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)
Education: Holly Burgess (449-0625) & Zona Burk (234-1083)
Energy Matters: Win Colwill (445-4663) & Dick Parker (below)
Historian: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
Land Use/Sunshine Coalition: Jo Sapp (443-8964)
Membership: Linda Lenau Brown (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt (443-7747)
Nominating: Sarah Wolcott (449-4407)
Other: Joan Eisenstark (449-5790) & Ava Fajen (424-4254)
Peace: Dick Parker (256-4397)
Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor & Linda Kaiser
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber
Web & Social Media: Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)

Meetings

Board: 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Coop
Civil Liberties: 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm*
Education: Varies
Energy Matters: 2nd Thurs., 10 am*
Fundraising: Varies
Peace: Varies
Voter Service: Varies*
 *Meetings at Library

Membership

We are now collecting dues through December for 2012. (If you have an "11" after your name, you are presently paid. When you pay for 2012, a "12" will appear after your name. Our membership year runs January 1-December 31.)

To join the League or renew your membership, fill in the information below and mail it, with your check, to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 for local students.

If you are a member and wish to receive a membership list, please contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or email at lizschmidt@centurytel.net.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check, payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)

For more information, contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or Linda Brown at 447-3939.

Websites

lwvcbc.wordpress.com (local)
lwvmissouri.org (state)
lww.org (national)

www.covermissouri.org (Missouri Foundation for Health)

Would you like to see the Voter in color? Save the League printing and mailing costs? You can now get the Voter direct to your computer early by contacting co-editor Linda Kaiser at lindakaiser@gmail.com. Let her know you would like to receive your Voter via email and the email address you would like used.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

P.O. Box 239

Columbia, MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.wordpress.com>

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*LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard
democracy leads to civic improvement.*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Energy Matters Com, 9:30 am, Library rm. B Civil Lib. Com., 1:15 pm, Library B	9	10 LWVMO Board Mtg., Boone Tavern, 9:30 am
11	12 Board mtg. 6:30, Boone Electric	13 Election Forum, 7 pm, Library	14	15	16	17
18	19 Education Com., 6:30 pm, Library	20	21 Consensus- Privati- zation Study, 7 pm, Apt. 3101, 1700 Forum Blvd.	22 Consensus- Privati- zation Study, 12-1:30 pm, Library	23	24
25	26 Advancing Renew- als in the Midwest Conference	27 Documentary Film & Discussion, "Kilowatt Ours," Tues., Mar. 27, 7: pm., Library	28	29	30	31 Earth Hour 2012, 8:30-9:30 pm
April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7