



LWV The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County, MO

CELEBRATE 95 YEARS! FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON NOV. 12

The 2014 Founders' Day Luncheon will be held Wednesday, November 12 in the Windsor I Room, Holiday Inn Executive Center, 2200 I-70 Drive West. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by a noon meal.

This will be a great time to celebrate our many years of service to the community. And it is the birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the first woman at the Seneca Falls Convention who called for women to get the vote.

We will present the Outstanding Citizen Award to Chris Kelly, retiring member of the Missouri House of Representatives. Very few people have had the breadth and depth of experience that Chris Kelly has had and we have been the lucky recipients of his devotion to making people's lives better. As the League of Women Voters, we are non-partisan, and commend his ability to work across party lines. We know that he has been a supporter of campaign finance reform as well as for open meetings, two issues of particular importance to the League.



Our luncheon speaker will be Vicky Riback Wilson. Vicky Riback Wilson, a native of Columbia, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in English, and received a Master of Education degree in higher and adult education from MU. She lived and worked in Uganda as a Peace Corps Volunteer, and later in Indonesia while there with her husband. Her varied professional endeavors include: teaching Head Start, high school and university students; working as a community arts administrator and a leadership educator; and serving as a State Representative for 8 years. At our luncheon, she will share her experience as one of the very few female state legislators representing our district.

Lunch will include soup, sandwich and dessert for \$20. Make reservations by calling Liz Schmidt at 573-445-0655 or emailing her at lizschmidt65203@gmail.com. Please specify regular or vegetarian lunch. You can pay at the door if you like, but please make a reservation by November 9.



LUNCH & LEARN WITH WENDY NOREN: “WHY BOONE COUNTY CONDUCTS BETTER ELECTIONS”

Boone County Clerk and Recorder Wendy Noren will speak at the LWV November Lunch and Learn program at noon, Wednesday, Nov. 19. The meeting will be held in the upstairs meeting room at the Grindstone HyVee.

Wendy Noren has worked on local election administration since 1978, and remembers the 1980 presidential election. "We got slammed," she recalls. "There were thousands of people waiting in line to register to vote." Wendy taught herself COBOL computer language in order to develop processes to quickly register voters and

allow them to vote. She was elected Boone County Clerk in 1982, and has been in charge of all local elections since.

Wendy has also worked with engineers at the University of Missouri to develop procedures, computer programs and equipment appropriate for Boone County elections. In addition, she has served as an international election supervisor in Kosovo.

-- David Leuthold, Treasurer



OCTOBER BOARD REPORT

Fourteen board members attended our October 27th Board Meeting. We had one guest, Makenzie Koch from the Columbia Missourian. Makenzie informed our Board about the Community Outreach program at the Missourian and encouraged us to send stories about our forums and ballot issue recommendations to their stories section.

The Board reviewed our community outreach at the Mature Living Fair in October, heard about plans for a presentation we will have at the First Tuesday Club in November and decided to participate in the MU Women's Leadership Conference in March. We also had updates on the November Early Childhood Forum and the December Oral Health Forum. The Board chose The Room at the Inn as our charity to support at our December 11th Holiday Party. We will email our members with what to bring (most likely socks for the homeless).

The Board approved Ed Funds for the Oral Health Forum and the Legislators Town Hall to be held in February. Several Board members will be attending the LWVMO Fall Conference. All

LWV members are welcome to attend, see the note in this newsletter as well as your LWVMO Voter.

The Board reviewed our new Lunch and Learn meeting on the third Wednesday. Rep. Stephen Webber was our October guest and attracted a full house as well as a lot of media coverage. Wendy Noren will be our speaker for November 19 and she will speak on "Why Boone County Conducts Better Elections." Ideas were discussed for January and February. The Board also discussed possible speakers for our CAT TV shows.

Our final Board Meeting for 2014 will be on November 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

--Carol Schreiber,
CoPresident



NOV. 12 CAT TV: UPDATE ON VETERANS ISSUES IN COLUMBIA

The LWV CAT TV Show on Wednesday, Nov. 12 will look at how our veterans are treated in the Columbia area. Scheduled guests are Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Director at the VA Hospital and Ross Bridges from Welcome Home, an organization that helps returning veterans. Jim Robertson, managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune, will moderate the 7:00 p.m. show.

CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983 and CenturyTel Prism 98. The replays on CAT TV are at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The program will be available on our website a few days after the show or at columbiaaccess.tv.

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County recognizes the many organizations and individuals who have helped us educate the public, provided meeting space and gave their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we are recognizing a group of our Friends of the LWV as voted on by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County membership at our Annual Meeting on April 10, 2014. For November we recognize:

- Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring and hosting many of our forums and providing meeting rooms. And, we thank Patricia Miller for setting up our forum and refreshment rooms.
- Rep. Caleb Rowden and Rep. Chris Kelly for being on our CAT TV show called "Legislative Preview" in November 2013.
- Dr. Pat Westhoff for presenting our "Agricultural Policy Update" forum in November 2013.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

NOV. 13 FORUM: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION -- ONE ANSWER TO THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP?



The Education Committee's annual fall forum will be Nov. 13 at 7:00 p.m. (with refreshments at 6:30) in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library. Because early childhood education has been the focus of much media and political attention recently, we decided to focus this year's forum on that topic.

Some of you will remember when public school kindergartens were new; now we take them for granted. Historically, most pre-kindergarten education occurred in the private sector or in home settings. With the War on Poverty and creation of the Head Start program, policy makers argued that government-funded preschool programs could compensate for the effects of poverty on school achievement. Today's preschool advocates pin their hopes on the notion that providing high quality programs for all children will narrow the "achievement gap." However, the barriers to that goal are limited access and high costs.

The League of Women Voters has taken a position in favor of expansion of early childhood education. The forum will consider our progress toward that goal as a nation, state, and community.

Facilitated by LWV member Dr. Vena Long, our panelists will dissect the issues from a variety of perspectives:

- Dr. Kathy Thornburg, MU Professor Emerita of Human Development & Family Studies, will share her observations of the expanding interest in early childhood at the national and federal levels and what other states are doing in this area.
- Dr. Stacey Preis, DESE Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Early and Extended Learning, will discuss Missouri's policies and programs, including recent state legislation and an important grant application under review.
- Belinda Masters, Director of the Parents as Teachers program for Columbia Public Schools, will provide an overview of what the district provides and why public educators have become involved in programs for pre-kindergartners.

Following the panelists' talks, there will be time for audience questions and discussion. In addition, our committee will prepare a handout on the patchwork of preschool options, both public and private, in the Columbia area.

Please come to learn more and to voice your questions and concerns!

--Peggy Placier, Education Committee Chair



DEC. 3 FORUM: CURRENT ISSUES IN ORAL HEALTH

Oral health is integrally connected to overall health at all stages of life. Preventing and treating oral health problems can help people lead healthier, more productive lives. Unfortunately, there are gaps in both preventive measures and access to care here in Missouri, including Columbia.

The League will host a forum on "Current Issues in Oral Health" on December 3 at 7:00 p.m. (with refreshments at 6:30) in the Boone County Commission Chambers.

This forum will provide an overview of the current state of oral health in Missouri, challenges to

improvement, current initiatives, and future plans for programs and policy change.

The speakers will be:

- B. Ray Storm, DDS, MBA, Missouri State Dental Director
- Lori Henderson, DDS, Pediatric Dentist, Columbia
- Gary Harbison, MA, Executive Director, Missouri Coalition for Oral Health.

Please note that this forum will be held at the **Boone County Commission Chambers**.

-- Mahree Skala, Health Committee

OCT 24 PRESS RELEASE: LEAGUE OPPOSES AMENDMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Missouri announced its opposition to three Missouri constitutional amendments on the November 4th ballot:

- Proposition 3 Missouri Teacher Performance Evaluation
- Proposition 6 “Early Voting”
- Proposition 10 Missouri Gubernatorial Budgetary Recommendations

The Missouri Teacher Performance Evaluation amendment would require local districts to use state-approved student performance measures to evaluate how teachers are evaluated. The League believes that if passed, local control would be lost. Teachers are evaluated by local districts now and can be terminated for poor performance through due process. The amendment would mandate more standardized testing leading to more “teaching to the test” and increased costs for local school districts.

The “Early Voting” amendment would allow limited early voting only if the Missouri legislature chooses to fund it. The proposed system is more restrictive than 29 other states, including Iowa, Kansas, Illinois and Arkansas. It prohibits voting on weekends and voting at locations other than the boards of elections, key feature of early voting; and allows voting for six unspecified days, except for the Wednesday before the election. The League believes that we should increase access to voting through REAL early voting systems. If passed, this constitutional amendment would make it very difficult to put in place an early voting system that will encourage citizens to vote.

The Missouri Gubernatorial Budgetary Amendment limits the governor’s powers to propose a state budget and allocate state funds. The governor is responsible for a balanced budget. Governors in all states except Maryland have this power because it is necessary. The League believes that this gubernatorial power is essential to balance the budget when revenues fall and expenditures need to be cut.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

\$95 FOR 95 YEARS CAMPAIGN!!

This December, the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County celebrates our 95th Anniversary. Our role has evolved from the women’s suffrage movement to working to ensure that all citizens are well informed when casting their ballots.

This historic year, we are asking you to add \$40 to your 2015 membership renewal for a total of \$95. If you have a household membership, we are suggesting \$160 (\$80 current membership plus \$80 for the campaign).

We will use the funds to be more visible in the community promoting voting, providing issue education, working on campaign finance and redistricting reform,

having a robust social media presence, and advocacy on important issues.

We hope you will renew your membership soon and add the extra contribution to keep our organization strong and vital in our community.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President



LWVMO FALL CONFERENCE TO BE IN SEDALIA NOV. 15



The LWVMO Fall Conference is scheduled for November 15th at the State Fair Community College in Sedalia. Events run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with political analyst Bob Priddy as the luncheon speaker. Registration is \$25. For more information or to join in carpooling to the meeting contact Carol Schreiber (phone 657-1467;





Left top: James Pounds (R) and Dan Atwill (D), candidates for Presiding Commissioner at the Oct 21 Candidate Forum.



Left lower: Cheri Toalson Reich (R) and Brian McCollum, candidates for County Collector.



Right top: Brian Toohey and Karl Skala debate Columbia Proposition 2 on Oct 23. (Andrew Twaddle photo)



Right lower: Larry Schuster and Mayor Bob McDavid debate Columbia Proposition 1.





Upcoming League Events!



NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	NOV 1
2	3	4 First Tuesday Club - Elaine Blodgett speaks 11 a.m. Columbia Country Club	5	6	7	8
9	10 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	11	12 Founders Day Luncheon 11:30a.m. Holiday Inn Exec Ctr CAT TV Veterans Issues 7:00 p.m.	13 Forum: Early Childhood Education 7:00 p.m. Library	14	15 LWVMO Fall Conference 9 a.m.-3p.m. State Fair Comm. College Sedalia
16	17	18	19 Lunch & Learn Speaker: Wendy Noren Noon - 1 p.m. HyVee Mtg Rm	20	21	22
23	24 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 pm Broadway Christian Church	25	26	27	28	29
30	DEC 1	2	3 Forum: Issues in Oral Health 7:00 p.m. Boone County Commission Chambers	4	5	6
7	8	9 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	10	11 Holiday Party 5-7 p.m. Unitarian Church	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents:

Marilyn McLeod (445-3500) and
 Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
 1st VP: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
 Secretary: Marcia Walker
 (443-8666)
 Treasurer: David Leuthold
 (449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
 Peggy Placier (442-2996)
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Jan Swaney (864-0435)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
 Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod
 Education: Peggy Placier
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Fundraising: Win Colwill
 Health: Jan Swaney &
 Mahree Skala
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
 Membership: Liz Schmidt
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Websites:

Local: lwvcbc.org
 State: lwmmissouri.org
 National: lww.org

**Membership Application**

Thanks to one all who have responded to our \$95 for 95 years membership drive. We appreciate all of you who have paid the regular dues and those who have donated over and beyond these amounts. This is certainly easier than doing a rummage sale or bake sale.

If your label is stamped "Your Dues Notice", this is a second reminder for 2015 dues. If you do not have the membership brochure sent last month, you may use the coupon below.

Please send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. Thanks to all LWV members for renewing your membership promptly!

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$25 for local students. Individual and household memberships also include state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____

State and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____.

I would like to receive my Voter by email _____

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

Member News:

We are deeply saddened to report that long time board member **Holly Burgess** passed away Oct. 29. Condolences may be sent to Jill Muth, 9435 Sunny Creek Lane, Sunset Hills, MO 63127.

Henry (Hank) Von Holt, husband of longtime board member Lael Von Holt, and **Whitney Hicks**, husband of member Marge Hicks, also recently passed away.

We welcome new members who have joined since July 1: **Judy & Terry Ganey, Bill Hastings & Malene Lee, Kip Kendrick, Vena Long, Ken Midkiff, Ruth Milledge, Jim Robertson, and Joann Vest.**



League of Women Voters
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE DEC. 11 HOLIDAY PARTY!!

Come join the fun on December 11 as the LWV CBC holds a holiday party for all members. We will gather at the Unitarian Universalist Church from 5-7 p.m.

The league will provide beverages and members are encouraged to bring a favorite appetizer or dessert to share. But don't feel that you must bring something; please come anyway to see old friends or make new ones.

For those who wish to participate, we will also be accepting socks or possibly other items to donate to The Room at the Inn, for homeless persons. More information will be provided by email closer to the date of the party.



Mark your calendar now and we'll see you December 11!!



FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS!!

Founder's Day Luncheon with Citizen of the Year Award Nov. 12

Details on page 1

**Hot Topics in Education Forum:
Early Childhood Education Nov. 13**

Details on page 3

Fall Conference Nov. 15

Details on page 4

Lunch & Learn with Wendy Noren Nov. 19

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Oral Health Issues Forum Dec. 3

Details on page 3

Holiday Party Dec. 11

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