The February 14 LWV CAT TV Show “The League Presents” will address the Missouri Sunshine Law requirements. The Sunshine Law requires meetings be open and transparent. But, there also many other aspects to the law that make for good government. The name of the speaker will be included in the email announcement to members once it is confirmed. Our moderator is Randy Picht, executive director, of MU’s Reynolds Institute of Journalism.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on February 14. The program will be available on our website or at www.columbiaaccess.tv. The show replays on CAT TV at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. CAT TV is found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.

— Carol Schreiber

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— Carol Schreiber

The LWV Annual Legislative Night with Boone County state legislators will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library. We have invited our state legislative delegation, including Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch (District 44); Rep. Kip Kendrick (District 45); Rep. Martha Stevens (District 46); Rep. Chuck Basye (District 47); Rep. Sara Walsh (District 50); and Sen. Caleb Rowden (District 19).

David Lile from KFRU will be the moderator. Each legislator will have an opportunity to present their priorities for the 2018 State Legislative Session. Audience questions will follow. And then audience members may meet individually with their legislator. KFRU will broadcast the event live.

The Columbia Public Library is cosponsoring this event which is free and open to the public.

— Carol Schreiber

With 2018 National Women’s History Month coming up in March, the February 20 Lunch & Learn will be a session with the State Historical Society of Missouri. Abigail Anderson (Senior Advancement Officer) will give a presentation on the status of SHSMO’s Center for Missouri Studies new building project that is currently under construction at Sixth and Elm Streets in Columbia. The new building is expected to open to the public fall of 2019. The $40M building was supported by the State of Missouri with a $35M bond approved and appropriated by the State Legislature in 2016.

She will also present information on Missouri’s “Women as Change Agents” oral and video history program that started in St. Louis and Kansas City, and their plans for expanding the program to the rest of Missouri.

A lifelong Missourian, Anderson grew up in Brookfield. She holds a master's degree in public affairs and nonprofit management from the University of Missouri. Anderson joined SHSMO in 2016, after stints at both William Woods University and the University of Missouri. Anderson partners with key community stakeholders to secure the future of this state-of-the-art facility and the future of Missouri’s history.

The program will be Feb. 20 at noon in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library.

— Gayla Neumeyer
The first board meeting of the New Year provided a time for reflection, planning, and prioritization. Our discussion highlighted upcoming topics/speakers for our ongoing programs and identified new areas for public education and engagement.

The Voter Services Committee is organizing several activities to engage and inform citizens on candidates and issues. These include: a Legislative Night in February, Candidate/Ballot issue forum in March, continued work on voter registration, and coordination of our voter registration activities with other groups in Boone and surrounding counties. An area of research for this group is to visit Department of Motor Vehicle licensing offices to find out what they are doing to promote voter registration. This is especially important since the Department of Motor Vehicle office is a critical link in the voter registration process and since these offices are now operated by private firms and not by government.

In the interest of fostering voter information and awareness, the League is working to tag onto other organizations which provide legislative information and alerts. The League will, in turn, funnel this information on to members and citizens. One tool to be used in this process is the FASTDEMOCRACY.com website which provides a mechanism to track legislation.

A major focus of activity for our League in the coming year will be the Redistricting process. The spotlight is on the U.S. Supreme Court as it rules in the near future on cases of political gerrymandering which are on its docket. In Missouri, the Clean Missouri constitutional amendment ballot issue will change Missouri’s redistricting system. A taskforce, led by Sharon Schneeeberger (sharon@schneeeberger.net 443-4605), is being established by our LWV to be on the forefront of efforts to engage members, citizens, and politicians on the issue of redistricting. This issue is of vital importance and will have long-term effects on our elections.

We welcome League members to join this taskforce. Please contact Sharon if you are interested.

In addition, our League is in the process of reinvigorating the Civil Liberties Committee and creating a scholarship to be given to a deserving student,

I would encourage League members to mark their calendars or be on the lookout for information on some upcoming activities:

- State Legislative Filing Day on Tuesday, February 27th in Jefferson City
- Annual Meeting—April 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library
- Member survey
- May 17th Mental Health Forum
- CEC Fundraising Play on June 6th: A fun evening to enjoy Bye Bye Birdie

As 2018 begins, our LWV is reaffirming its commitment to be actively involved in voter registration, fair elections, voter education, and issue/policy advocacy. Our work becomes more important and vital given the elections in April and November, the importance of the 2020 census, the Supreme Court decision on gerrymandering, and the growing need for civic education and involvement. It is imperative that the calm, measured, non-partisan voice of the League be heard—loud and clear!

Diane Suhler, President

IT’S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018!!
The League of Women Voters will be holding a Candidate and Ballot Issue Forum on March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library. The candidates are in races that will be on the April 3rd ballot. The races and candidates are:

• Columbia City Council Ward 2 - Michael Trapp and Paul Love.
• Columbia School Board (two positions open) - Christine King, Ben Tilley, Tyler Lero, Susan Blackburn, and Teresa Maledy.
• Boone Hospital Board of Trustees – Greg Steinhoff and Mark Dempsey.
• Boone County Fire District Board (two positions open) – Bill Watkins, David Ritchie and Karmon Griffith.

One other Columbia City Council seat is up for election in Ward 6. Betsy Peters is running unopposed and will not be included in the Forum.

In addition, the Columbia School District will have one ballot issue. Dr. Peter Stiepleman, superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools, will make a presentation and answer questions at the forum.

We are expecting KFRU to broadcast the forum live and provide David Lile and Renee Hulshof as moderators. Refreshments will be available at 6:00 p.m.

— Carol Schreiber

The League of Women Voters will be engaged in several (to be determined) voter registrations prior to the elections in 2018. We are looking for volunteers to work, so if you are interested please email Marilyn McLeod at Marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com.

Another opportunity to volunteer in 2018 is to assist with a statewide survey of the Department of Motor Vehicle offices to determine if they are complying with the National Voter Registration Act law on voter registration. Our focus is Boone County and surrounding counties. We will provide you with information about what to look for. If you are planning to go to a DMV office to renew your driver’s license or car license tag, you could easily do this. If you are interested, please email Sharon Schneeberger at sharon@schneeberger.net.

— Carol Schreiber

As we register voters and think about future elections, it is a good time to re-visit the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, sometimes referred to as the Motor Voter Act or NVRA. The purpose of the act was to make it possible for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration.

What does this Act require for states?

It requires each state to provide its citizens the opportunity to apply to register to vote for federal elections by 3 means.

• States must provide individuals with the opportunity to register to vote at the same time that they apply for a driver’s license or seek to renew a driver’s license; this information must be forwarded to the appropriate state election official by the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) office no later than 5 days after acceptance.

• States must offer voter registration opportunities at all offices that provide public assistance and all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities.

• States must permit citizens to register to vote by mail using mail-in-forms developed by each state and the Election Assistance Commission.

For more information see—

— Sharon Schneeberger
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights
- Citizen’s Right to Vote - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

Election Process
- Apportionment - Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
- Redistricting - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
- Money in Politics - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.
- Selection of the President - Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights
- Citizen’s Right to Know/Citizen Participation - Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making).

SUMMARY OF LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS (PART I OF II)

Individual Liberties - Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Constitutional Amendment Proposals - In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

Constitutional Conventions - Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by state.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices - Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency
- Congress - Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.
- The Presidency - Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization
- Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.
The LWV of Columbia-Boone County recognizes the many organizations and individuals who have helped us educate the public, provided meeting space, and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we recognize 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 19, 2017. For February 2018 we recognize:

- **Nikki McGruder** for being our guest at our February 2017 CAT TV show entitled “Diversity Awareness Partnership.”
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Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

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**United Nations**

- Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

**Trade**

- Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

**U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

- Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

**Arms Control**

- Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

**Military Policy and Defense Spending**

- Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

**Natural Resources**

- Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-sustaining ecosystems.

**Resource Management**

- Promote resource conservation, stewardship and longrange planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

**Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

- **Air Quality** - Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.
- **Energy** - Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.
- **Land Use** - Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.
- **Water Resources** - Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.
- **Waste Management** - Promote policies that reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.
- **Nuclear Issues** - Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

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**FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY**

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Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!
### Upcoming League Events!

#### FEBRUARY 2018

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Thank you very much for your continued support! Dues received now are for the 2018 year. We are preparing for the upcoming Cat TV programs, Lunch & Learn programs, plus our educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Membership dues are $65 for individuals, $100 for a household, and $25 for local students. Individual and household memberships also include state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Send to PO Box 239, Columbia, MO. 65205
Name____________________________________________
Email Address_____________________________________
Street ___________________________________________
City _____________________________________________
State and Zip Code _________________________________
Telephone ________________________________________
I am particularly interested in ________________________
I would like to receive my Voter by postal mail _______
(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)

MEMBER UPDATE
The LWV welcomes new members Kate Forman, John McLeod, Crystal Payne, Alison Robuck, and Ashley Stevens.

SCOTUS HEARS VOTER PURGE CASE
(FROM LWVUS JANUARY NEWSLETTER)
The Supreme Court heard arguments in Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI), Ohio's voter purge case. The League filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs last year, stating it’s unreasonable, and therefore unlawful, to infer that a voter moved or is otherwise ineligible to vote from one missed federal election. We joined other voting rights advocates on the steps of the Supreme Court to say the right to vote is not use-it-or-lose-it. Learn more about the details of this case from Interim Senior Director of Advocacy, Jessica Jones Capparell, on The Union Edge.
SEND NOMINATIONS FOR ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD!

At our annual meeting in April, we will honor a LWV member with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League of Women Voters. If you have someone in mind that is deserving of the award, please send a statement detailing how your nominee meets the following criteria for the award:

- Member of LWV of Columbia-Boone County.
- Exemplary service and a long term commitment to the principles of LWV.
- Primary service should be at the local level, but may include service at the state and/or national level.
- Service goes beyond service in an elected or appointed LWV assignment.
- This award does not need to be given each year and may be given posthumously.


Please send your nominations to Diane Suhler at drsuhler@ccis.edu by March 1. The board will make a selection at our March board meeting. The award will be presented at our Annual Meeting in April.

—Diane Suhler

‘ELECTION INTEGRITY’ COMMISSION DISSOLVED

(FROM LWVUS JANUARY NEWSLETTER)

Our voting rights experienced a great victory at the beginning of this month, when President Trump (at long, long last) shut down his discredited ‘Election Integrity’ Commission. The League was involved in legal challenges in Texas, Utah and Indiana that sought to prevent the private data of voters in those states from being shared with the Commission. And, in the time the Commission was active, we collected more than 20,000 comments and petition signatures from those opposed to the Commission’s work. It is now time for our leaders to focus on the very real work of securing our elections against foreign interference, while making sure all eligible voters are free to exercise their right to vote.