



The Voter

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

FEB. 17 LUNCH & LEARN: "TOO MANY ROADS AND BRIDGES, TOO LITTLE FUNDING"

Travis Koestner, Assistant District Engineer, Missouri Department of Transportation, will speak on "Too Many Roads and Bridges, Too Little Funding" for our Feb 17 Lunch & Learn. The meeting will be at noon on Feb. 17 at the Grindstone Hy-Vee community room, which is on the second floor near the entrance.

Missouri has more miles of state-maintained highway than Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas

combined. Missouri has one of the lowest motor fuel excise tax and state sales tax rates of any of its surrounding states. About 43% of the government money spent for transportation in Missouri is from the federal government.

--David Leuthold, Treasurer



ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We look forward each year to honoring a member of the LWV CBC with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League.

This award honors exemplary service and a longterm commitment to the principles of the League. The primary service should be at the local level, but may also include service at the state and/or national level. The award may be given posthumously. It will not be given solely in recognition of one's performance in an elected or appointed League assignment.

Some previous recipients include Lorene Emerson (2009), Carolyn Leuthold (2012), Maydell Senn (2013) and Lael Von Holt (2014).

If you would like to nominate someone, please send their name and a brief description of their service activities to Marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com by March 15, so the board can make a selection at its March meeting. The award will be presented at our Annual Meeting in April.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President

FEB. 11 CAT TV: MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND SHAPING PUBLIC OPINION

The February 11 CAT TV show will explore the question of whether individuals or corporations that own media are trying to shape public opinion. Watch your email for the panel members. The show is at 7:00 p.m. on CAT TV: Mediacom channel 85; Charter Communications channel 983; and CenturyTel Prism channel 98. Replay on

CAT TV will be 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The YouTube version is available on our website (lwcbbc.org) a few days after air time.

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President



ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 21

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. We will have a speaker, present the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service for the LWV, and elect officers, board members and nominating committee members. We will either

have a potluck or a catered meal by a fundraising group, to keep the cost down for members to attend. The meeting location will be announced in the next issue of the Voter.



JANUARY BOARD REPORT

Thirteen board members were at our January 26th board meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Reports were presented on upcoming events including the Legislator Town Hall on February 5th, the February Lunch and Learn, and March candidate/ballot issue forums.
- Ideas were discussed for future Lunch and Learn speakers.
- An update on the Nominating Committee was given to the board.
- A contract is being signed with CEC for the June 10th fundraising play for \$600. This is our main fundraiser for the year.
- State League activities update included the State Convention and legislative activities.

Several board members attended the photo voter ID legislative hearings on January 27th.

- The annual meeting date has been changed from April 7th, which is Election Day, to April 21st.

The next board meeting will be February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

--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 January 2015 we recognize:

- KFRU radio for airing our Candidate/Ballot Issue forums. Thanks to David Lile for moderating our forums and having members as guests on his radio show. And thanks to Renee Hulshof for moderating our forums.
- Dr. Stephen Keithahn, Steve Renne, and Thomas McAuliffe for being on our CAT TV show titled "What is the Real Cost of Not Expanding Medicaid?" in March 2014.
- Nathan Nickolaus for speaking at the Sunshine Coalition event titled "Missouri Sunshine Law: Shining a Light on Government" in March 2014. LWV co-sponsored the event.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

REPRINT: GETTING BEYOND POLARIZATION (PAGES 3 AND 4)

Our January Lunch & Learn meeting featured Dr. Paul Ladoff, director of the LL.M. in Dispute Resolution and Campus Mediation Services at the Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution in the MU School of Law. He explained how best to encourage civil dialogue, with information useful for a discussion between individuals as well as ideas for ensuring that public events are seen as fair and impartial.

At the meeting, Dr. Ladoff shared an excellent article entitled "Getting Beyond Polarization" by Richard Chasin which appeared in "State Legislatures," a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). It is reprinted here with permission. We extend our gratitude to the NCSL for their generosity in providing this to us.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President

This article reprinted with permission from the July/August 2005 issue of *State Legislatures*.

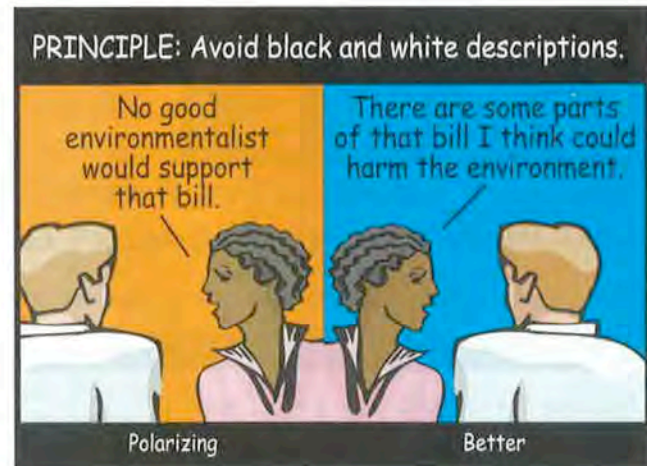
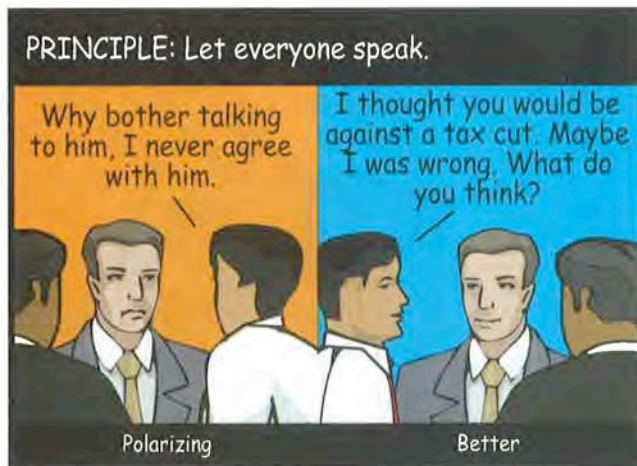
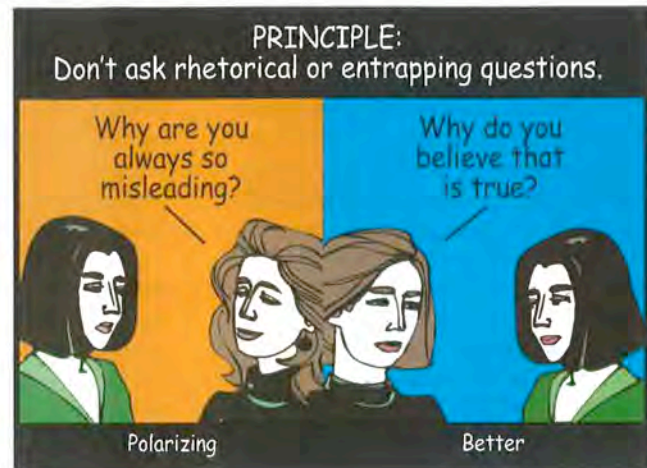
TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Getting Beyond Polarization

**POLARIZATION CAN DEGRADE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP THWART ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS.**

By Richard Chasin

BREAKING POLARIZING HABITS



How do you feel when you are attacked, stereotyped, silenced, ignored or excluded because of your party affiliation? What effect has polarization had on your willing-

Richard Chasin is a founding associate of the Public Conversations Project, a nonprofit group that promotes constructive conversations among those who bring differing values and world views and positions related to divisive public issues. See www.publicconversations.org

ness to work with members of the other party and your ability to get things done?

As the demand for party loyalty and discipline increases, legislators are often pressured to vote party over constituency or conscience. The devaluation of collaboration, compromise and cross-aisle comity can hogtie any state house, especially when the

chambers of a legislature are controlled by different parties, a chamber is closely split or the governor and the majority aren't of the same party. When a legislature is locked in hostile paralysis, idealists get disheartened, pragmatists get frustrated, and the gregarious become unnaturally guarded.

We may speculate about possible causes of

polarization: gerrymandering, term limits, PACS, the politics of personal attacks, the disappearance of free time, the speed and range of the Internet, media coverage that highlights sensational events, the trenchant sound bytes of embattled partisans, and the ascent of well-funded, single-issue interest groups that mobilize grass-roots support at both partisan extremes. Whatever the factors, we must deal with their effects.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

If you are frustrated by polarization, there's much you can do. You can develop working and personal relationships across the aisle and across divides of religion, background and geography.

"Speak with everyone you can," says Ohio Representative Merle Grace Kearns. "No one has all the answers." You can cosponsor bills, participate in bipartisan policy development groups, listen to diverse constituents, and hone your negotiation, mediation and consensus building skills in workshops like "Beyond Bickering and Gridlock: Your Role in Changing the Legislature." Minnesota Representative Sheila Kiscaden developed this program in conjunction with the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota, the Policy Consensus Institute and NCSL. You might attend meetings where politics is off the table and personal relationships can develop on a nonpartisan basis.

You also can fight polarization simply by paying serious attention to the way you communicate your differences. After two women staff members were murdered in 1994 at Boston clinics where abortions were performed, six pro-choice and pro-life leaders decided it was time to talk. Their objective was to reduce tension and prevent future hostilities—from either side. They avoided using demonizing language in public settings and alerted each other privately about potential risks. The six expected to have only a few sessions, but ended up meeting secretly for five years in order to explore the full depth of their differences. In a 2001 Boston Globe Sunday feature, "Talking with the Enemy," the six leaders reported this paradox: They had developed deep mutual understanding, respect and affection for each other, and at the same time had become more strongly convinced of their own original views on abortion.

AVOID THESE BAD HABITS

Polarization often comes less from our fervent differences than from how we talk about and treat those with whom we disagree. The following communication habits can polarize.

1. Unprovable (or at least unproven) Accusations

"The governor has no credibility." Such statements provoke cycles of attack and counter attack. What slurs have come your way? How have you reacted?

2. Stereotypes

"Waffling moderate." "Bigoted extremist." A stereotype implies that you are not a distinctive individual, but simply one member of a troublesome group. Even if it is technically accurate, e.g., "product of Ivy League schools," it bleaches out one's unique qualities. What stereotype about you is particularly maddening? Is there any truth to it?

3. Rhetorical Questions

"Why are you so misleading?" may mean "I find your comments misleading." How do you react to these verbal wolves in sheep's clothing? How have you handled pseudo-questions?

4. Attributions of Nefarious Motive

When she was told that her opponents on a cigarette tax bill had been "bought and sold by Philip Morris," Representative Kiscaden responded, "You needn't be so harsh." How have extreme ill-intentions been ascribed to you (or your opponents)? Which was most baffling? Irritating? How have you responded?

5. Not Listening

Can you recall times when people did not even try to take in what you were saying, but seemed simply to be preparing their critiques and counter-claims? Did you find a way to get fuller attention?

6. Disqualifying, Dismissing, Silencing

"You are not an expert or a permanent resident of this state." Such assertions imply that a person has no right to be heard. When was the last time you were wiped out of a discussion? What happened?

7. Unalloyed Certainty

Some people talk as though they are sure of everything they say, never expressing the slightest doubt or mixed feelings. How do you respond to them? Do you believe they are arrogant, robotic, utterly convinced or something else?

8. The Two Sides to an Issue

What sometimes passes for balanced

HOW TO DEPOLARIZE

- ◆ If you must accuse, be specific.
- ◆ Don't ask rhetorical or entrapping questions.
- ◆ Listen openly.
- ◆ Let everyone speak.
- ◆ Don't use unfounded attributions.
- ◆ Admit you don't know everything.
- ◆ Avoid black and white descriptions.
- ◆ Call others on their polarizing communication.

reporting is the presentation of one view and one counterinterview, with most facts and all other perspectives omitted. How do you react when asked to position yourself either as "for" or "against" a position and are given no other options?

BECOME AN ANTIDOTE

Sad to say, these habits are common in the world of politics and stir up misunderstanding, antipathy and distrust—the three essential ingredients of polarization. If you believe that polarization is poison for democratic practice, here are some ways to become an antidote. You already are likely to be adept at these alternative modes of communication in some areas of your life. The trick is for you to apply your skill in the polarizing force field of politics today.

1. **If you must accuse, be specific.** Don't paint with a broad brush.
2. **In describing others, be precise.** Avoid stereotypes.
3. **Ask honest questions.** Avoid rhetorical or entrapping questions. Seek answers only to get information or clarification.
4. **Listen openly.** Avoid just scanning for errors or preparing your next statement while others are talking.
5. **Let everyone speak.** Avoid leaving people out or shutting them up.
6. **Never assume you know someone's motives.** Avoid unfounded attributions.
7. **Admit some ambivalence.** Talk with conviction, but be honest about not knowing everything. Avoid arrogance.
8. **Reflect appreciation for the complexity of issues.** Avoid arbitrary pros and cons.
9. **Don't let others use polarizing language.** Look for appropriate ways to call others on their polarizing communications. Don't accept such practices.

This article reprinted with permission from the July/August 2005 issue of *State Legislatures*.

OUR HISTORY SERIES #24: THE END OF THE 1930'S

Although the nation was affected by the Great Depression, it definitely didn't stop the Columbia League of Women Voters from pursuing their active interest and involvement in national, state and local public policy concerns.

For example, one topic that persisted was child labor. This was a concern dating back to the beginning of the League. The League's Child Welfare Committee was responsible for the program at a luncheon in November 1937. University professor Arthur P. Miles and the Rev. C.E. Lemmon spoke about the forces opposing the passage of child labor laws. Dr. Lemmon noted that these included: industrial greed; religious conviction; prejudice against constitutional amendments; fear of governmental intrusion; and "the tinge of radicalism in every reform". This was under discussion at the Missouri Legislature at the time. His advice: "the true political strategy is to make converts in our own community, and to elect men who have a favorable conviction on this important social reform." Another topic covered was the possibility of a minimum wage law, which, according to Prof. Miles would be "a necessary companion piece" (from *Columbia Missourian*, Nov. 13-18, 1937). A national minimum wage law of 25 cents per hour was passed in 1938.

Another major interest was instituting a merit-based political system and getting rid of the old patronage system. At a League meeting held on December 2, 1937, Mrs. Edna Gellhorn of the St. Louis League, who was the chairperson of the national LWV campaign against the spoils system, came to Columbia and spoke on the subject. The title was "Patronage Pilloried."

Mrs. Gellhorn stressed that "We are not working against any one party," "we are dead against the patronage system, and we are going to help the parties by obliterating it." She spoke of the Ramspeck bill, which the League was backing, that was then in the U.S. Congress, and mentioned that only four of Missouri's congressmen voted for it. But, she reiterated, the

merit system "is marching on." She referred to the city of Maplewood which was about to pass an ordinance for a merit system of government and said that this movement could take place in Columbia and in all of Missouri.

An editorial on January 4, 1938 about the subject noted that "Public opinion, evidenced by a recent report of the Gallup poll, favors the merit principle." The editorial goes on to single out "The Columbia League of Women Voters [which] has joined the national organization and other groups in a strong campaign to foster the system."

Since this wasn't enough to keep the members of the local League busy, they were also studying the subject of taxation. On January 13, 1938, they had a luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Conrad H. Hammar, associate professor of agricultural economics at MU. A *Missourian*

article the next day has the headline "Hammar Says Recent Taxes 'soak the poor.'" In his speech, he said "Taxes never 'soak the rich'". He decried the "definitely regressive taxes, such as sales taxes" which have been used as an unavoidable necessity of the depression; the "shift is away from the ability to pay." But he added that he hoped that "with the return to normal conditions, the League could aid in bringing about a restoration of fiscal health in a tax system badly in need of it." In case you hadn't noticed, this is one topic that has never gone away.

Finally, at the local level, another topic that was under discussion in 1938 was Columbia's sewage system. The League sponsored a series of meetings about sewer extensions in new additions on the edge of town. Areas discussed included Sunset Lane and West Boulevard and vicinity, a southeastern section, and East Broadway section (at Proctorville, along Highway 40). The Mayor and city sanitary engineer were invited to attend the meetings. Have you noticed that sewers continue to be in the news?

The more things change, the more they stay the same. At least some of the time.

--Marilyn McLeod, Historian





Upcoming League Events!



FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEB 1	2	3	4	5 Legislative Town Hall 7p.m. Library	6	7
8	9	10	11 CAT TV 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m. Lunch & Learn Noon - 1 p.m. HyVee Mtg Rm	18	19	20	21
22	23 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 pm Broadway Christian Church	24	25	26	27	28
MARCH 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 CAT TV 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	17 Lunch & Learn Noon - 1 p.m. HyVee Mtg Rm Forum: April Election 6:30 p.m. Library	18	19	20	21
22	23 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 pm Broadway Christian Church	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 If needed Forum: April Election 6:30 p.m. Library	31				

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: lwvmissouri.org

National: lwv.org



Thanks to 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 more.

If your label is stamped "your dues notice", you still owe for 2015. Please send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box

239, Columbia, MO 65205.

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 saddened to report the recent passing of LWV member Pat Williamson, and send our sympathy to her family.

RECYCLERS ARE RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE

Recyclers have been waiting for this day to come, and it's here now. Columbia residents may now recycle plastics labeled #1 through #7 in blue bags or in drop-off recycling bins around Columbia. Now recyclable are food containers such as those for yogurt,

cottage cheese or any package imprinted with the recycle triangle with any number 1 through 7 on it. Check for a container's recyclability before pitching it in your refuse. Remember: reduce, reuse, recycle.

--Joni O'Connor



League of Women Voters

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LWVMO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2015

Members of the League of Women Voters of Missouri were at the Capitol in Jefferson City on January 13, our annual LWV Capitol Action Day. Elaine Blodgett, Peggy Placier and Marilyn McLeod represented our chapter, along with members from other chapters.



We visited the offices of every member of the Legislature and left a card with information about the League and a list of our priorities for the year. The priorities were written in a way to bridge the political parties and represent the League's policy positions.

The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports:

- Legislative actions that promote ethical and responsible government.
- Voting processes that encourage all citizens to participate.
- Affordable, comprehensive health care for Missouri citizens.
- Tax policies that provide financial stability and adequate funding for all state services.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President