



# The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 75, No. 12

DECEMBER, 2010

## It's Here!

What's here you ask? Well, how about the celebration of our 91st years as a local chapter of the League of Women Voters!

We will celebrate not only our founding but also the many positive things the League has accomplished in its long history. The lunch and celebration will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Come early to check out the posters and notebooks detailing our activities over the years. The cost is \$22.00; please send in your reservations to Liz Schmidt right away to reserve your place!



The League's Outstanding Citizen of the Year will be recognized and members Axie Hindman and Holly Burgess will share information about former League member Eleanor Roosevelt.

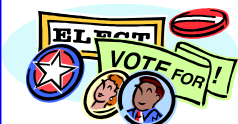
**Come and share some good conversation with friends and colleagues.**

## Voter Service Tackles How to Educate Voters Better in 2011

Billions of dollars were spent in the last election on campaign advertising. Many of the dollars were from corporations and groups who did not have to disclose who they are. Did these ads sway the election? Did these ads educate the voters? Were all these ads accurate?

The Voter Service will begin a project in 2011 to explore ways to provide accurate candidate information for voters. The national League sponsored a website with candidate information, [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). However, this website was incomplete and was not available until late in the campaign. So, we are starting well ahead of the 2012 election to try to provide a much needed service.

The League board voted to provide funding up to \$1000 for this project. The money comes from the Lorene B. Emerson Memorial Fund. Lorene was very involved with Voter Service for many years and served as chair of the committee.



If you are interested in this project, please contact [carolschrei@gmail.com](mailto:carolschrei@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Dec. 9, 1: 15 pm., Library**
- **Founding Luncheon, Sat., Dec. 11, 11:30 am, Courtyard by Marriot**
- **No board meeting in December**



- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Jan. 6, 1: 15 pm., Library**
- **Peace Com., Fri., Jan 14, 9 am, Library**
- **Board Mtg., Mon., Jan 24, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric**
- **Energy Matters Com., Tues., Jan 25, 1 pm, Library**
- **Unit Mtg.—LWVMO Program Review, Wed., Jan 23, 7 pm, location tba**
- **Unit Mtg.—LWVMO Program Review, Thurs., Jan 24, 12 noon, location tba**
- **Education Com., Thurs., Jan. 27, 6:30 pm, location tba**

## Fact Checking

**In this political climate, citizens wanting to check the accuracy of allegations about political figures can go to ...**

**[www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com) or  
[www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org)**

## What is a Progressive?



Progressivism has been defined as “an umbrella label for a wide range of economic, political, social, and moral reforms. These included efforts to outlaw the sale of alcohol; regulate child labor and sweatshops; scientifically manage natural resources; insure pure and wholesome water and milk; Americanize immigrants or restrict immigration altogether; and bust or regulate trusts. Drawing support from the urban, college-educated middle class, Progressive reformers sought to eliminate corruption in government, regulate business practices, address health hazards, improve working conditions, and give the public more direct control over government through direct primaries to nominate candidates for public office, direct election of Senators, the initiative, referendum, and recall, and women's suffrage.” (www.digitalhistory.uh.edu)

Who were the progressives? They included Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jane Adams, Ida Tarbell, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, Democratic presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan, suffragette Lucy Burns, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, suffragette Carrie Chapman Catt, philosopher and education reformer John Dewey, NAACP co-founder W.E.B. Du Bois, inventor Thomas Edison, automaker Henry Ford, philosopher William James, journalist Walter Lippmann, suffragette Alice Paul, historian Ulrich Phillips, conservationist Gifford Pinchot, Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger, philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr., novelist Upton Sinclair and social reformer Booker T. Washington.

At a time when progressives are being attacked in some quarters as un-American, it is perhaps important to remember the legacy that was left to us by those who went before and how much better life is for most of us as a result of their efforts..

Linda Kaiser  
President

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



## League Members Recognized



Congratulations to League members **Dick Parker** and **Lily Tinker Fortel**, who with Robin Remington and Paul Wallace, were honored at the Mid-Missouri Peaceworks annual dinner on November 13. They received awards for their lifelong commitment to causes espoused by Peaceworks - peace, justice and the environment. No one at the event could fail to be impressed as the volunteer work of each was described

Leaving the platform with a framed certificate in one hand and his small grandson on his shoulders, Dick held up three bumper stickers. One, Margaret Mead's famous words, *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."* Another said, *"Get Involved! The world is run by those who show up."*

Dick advised the group to get some bumper stickers at Peaceworks and live by them.

Win Colwill

## CAT TV Studio Program to Resume in 2011

The League board voted to provide a \$1000 contribution from the Lorene B. Emerson Memorial Fund to sponsor 10 CAT TV studio shows for 2011. In the past, these programs did not cost the League. However, due to changes at CAT TV these half-hour shows now will cost \$100 each.



The CAT TV/Communication committee has begun planning for these programs. The January 2011 program will highlight the burden that state budget cuts place on private organizations and how will these organizations provide needed services.

All League CAT TV programs are available for viewing on CAT TV's website at [www.columbiaaccess.tv](http://www.columbiaaccess.tv).

Carol Schreiber  
Chair

### ***Welcome to our newest members of our League:***

Ruth Ann Jones, 445-6879, 209 Russell Blvd., 65203 (no email given)

Pat Fowler, 256-6841, 616 North 6th St., 65201  
[fowler-patricia-j@yahoo.com](mailto:fowler-patricia-j@yahoo.com)



## Energy-Saving Tips For Winter

1. Have you checked your car's tire pressure recently? As the weather turns cold, tires lose air pressure, about 1 to 2 pounds for every 10 degree drop in temperature. Low pressure increases rolling resistance, reducing fuel economy; it can also reduce the life of the tire. For an accurate reading, check the pressure when the car has not been driven for at least three hours.



2. Check your furnace air filter monthly and change as needed. David Mars, Water & Light energy specialist, says dirty air filters are the most common problem he sees when conducting energy audits. Dirty filters inhibit air flow, reducing heating efficiency and wasting energy.

Win Colwill, Co-Chairs  
Energy Matters

## Boone County Commission: First Observer Report



I attended my first Boone County Commission meeting on November 9 at 9:30 AM as the only person representing the 'public'. I did explain that my purpose was simply to observe and learn. It was a good and interesting experience and I urge some of you all to join me.

Many of the reports and votes were as you would expect, fairly mundane; the purchasing of cleaning chemicals and supplies, drug/alcohol testing equipment and forensic (digital intelligence) computers: Sewer District work, and request to hire a case specialist above the current pay range for the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

The purchase of the MODOT (Missouri Transportation) building in Hallsville caught my interest as it told two stories. MODOT is selling off some of their properties and consolidating them probably to save money. These are the Harrisburg and Hallsville centers (trucks, salt, local offices, etc) and services were consolidated in the Centralia area on Hwy 24. Boone County Commissioners authorized \$ 41,000. for the purchase of the Hallsville MoDot building for road maintenance and sheriff's department use for better outreach into the county.

After the meeting I asked Presiding Commissioner Ken Pearson about several items in the budget with funding. He indicated that much of the funding of Sheriff's and Circuit courts projects come from Federal grants.

The biggest surprises were the amount of tasks taken up, and the number of topics covered. On the other hand, anything we can learn about our local governments is helpful to us as tax paying and voting citizens.

Elaine Blodgett  
Observer

## Columbia Public Schools – World Café



On November 4, 2010 Zona Burk, Holly Burgess and Linda Kaiser attended the CPS World Café discussion on how to close the achievement gap in our public schools. Over 300 people participated in the discussion representing educators, parents, civic organizations and students. While there were no clear cut answers it is obvious that there is a community wide commitment to solve this serious problem.

According to Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Chris Belcher there is a "significant disparity in the achievement of African American and Hispanic students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch." Belcher went on to say "if we don't find ways to create more opportunities for our minority populations, our economic engine could falter in the future. I truly believe we have to inspire these kids to realize they can achieve, because they're smart enough and they truly can."

This program was sponsored in part through a \$10,000 grant received from the National Education Association (NEA). Representatives from the NEA visited Columbia in August and presented the district with this money which is "aimed to further the district's efforts to close the achievement gap."

Notes on the meeting have been collected and distributed to the people who attended the meeting. The next step is to conduct focus groups with audiences not represented at the World Café and to begin establishing the working committees. If you are interested in reading the notes from this event you can contact Zona, Holly, Linda or Michelle Baumstark at [Mbaumsta@columbia.k12.mo.us](mailto:Mbaumsta@columbia.k12.mo.us).

Submitted by Holly Burgess

NOTE: If you are interested in hearing what Dr. Belcher has to say about this issue and other CPS priorities plan on attending an Education Committee sponsored program on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., Board Room of the School District Office.

## The DISCLOSE Act: What Is It?

In Justice Kennedy's majority opinion in **Citizens United**, he supported greater disclosure of donors and, along with seven other Justices, said such disclosure was entirely appropriate and useful in a democracy. The **DISCLOSE Act** was introduced in the Congress in order to increase transparency of corporate and special-interest money in national political campaigns. The League of Women Voters supports the DISCLOSE Act and has lobbied vigorously for it. The essential elements of the act, and its official name, are as follows.

### Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections

1. Would ban pay-to-play, that is, it would not allow government contractors and corporate beneficiaries of TARP who have not repaid their loans to make any campaign expenditures, nor would it allow foreign corporations and domestic corporations having substantial foreign involvement and control to make campaign expenditures.

2. Requires effective disclosure of campaign related activity for both electioneering communications (issue ads) and public independent expenditures (express advocacy) by covered organizations: corporations, unions, section 501(c)(4), (5), and (6) organizations, and 527 organizations. *(The 501(c) advocacy committees are permitted to collect donations anonymously if political activity is not their key focus. The 527 organizations have to disclose donor identities.)*

3. Both disclosure of disbursements and the source of the funds are required and must be made within 24 hours for \$10,000 expenditures made more than 20 days before an election and all expenditures of \$1000 or more made within 20 days of election.

4. Covered organizations are required to report all donors of \$1000 or more during a 12 month period if the organization makes campaign related expenditures in excess of \$10,000.

5. Donors to a covered organization can specify that their donation may not be used for campaign related activity and the organization must respect this restriction and in this case, need not disclose identity of donor.

6. Covered organizations may establish campaign related activity accounts to receive and disburse political expenditures. If they do establish such accounts they are required to disclose only donors of \$10,000 or more whose donations is intended for unrestricted use, or donors of \$1000 or more where the contribution is intended specifically for campaign related activities.

7. The CEO or highest ranking official of covered organizations must appear on camera with a so-called stand by-your-ad disclaimer, that is to say that he/she approves the message. The top funder of an ad must also record a stand-by-your-ad disclaimer. And the top five donors to the covered organization must be listed on the screen at the end of the ad.

8. All registered lobbyists must disclose in their semiannual reports all independent expenditures or electioneering communications of \$1000 or more and the name of each candidate referred to or supported or opposed.

9. All campaign related expenditures of covered organizations must be disclosed on the organization's website within 24 hours of having been reported to FEC, and must be disclosed to shareholders and members in the financial reports provided to them regularly.

10. Those organizations spending \$50,000 on airtime to run ads that support or oppose a candidate entitle that candidate or political party committee to receive the lowest unit rate and must be given reasonable access.

11. In order to pass this bill in the House, sponsors exempted organizations that have over one million members, have been in existence for more than 10 years, have members in all 50 states, and raise 15% or less of their funds from corporations. This includes but is not limited to such organizations as the NRA, the Sierra Club, the Humane Society, and AARP.

LWVUS has recently sent out an Action Alert encouraging members to write to their Senators to support this bill. It has already passed in the House but was blocked in the Senate.

Our local league has presented information on a brief history of campaign finance legislation at the November unit meetings. We hope to have this brief history, written by Civil Liberties Co-Chair Aline Kultgen up on our "Members Only" page on our website in the near future. A list of websites related to campaign finance (in all its complexities) and the DISCLOSE Act will be posted there shortly.

## Membership

Please correct your listings for the following members:

Jan Mees: 2746 W. Willowbark Ct, 65203 [jandbmees@mchsi.com](mailto:jandbmees@mchsi.com)

Marian Hjelmfelt: [hjelmfeltm@yahoo.com](mailto:hjelmfeltm@yahoo.com)



**Dues:** Time is running out! Dues are currently \$55, with household remaining at \$80, and student at \$15. We If you have an 11 after your name on the address label for this Voter, you are paid. (For those on email, we will send out an email reminder shortly!) Dues may be sent to Liz Schmidt, 1700 Forum Blvd, #3101, 65203, or to LWV, PO Box 239, 65205.

Linda Brown and Liz Schmidt  
Membership Co-chairs

## Interested in Local Government?



The city of Columbia is looking for citizens to fill vacancies on various board and commissions. Applications can be found at [www.gocolumbiamo.com](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com) and are due in the City Clerk's office by noon, Friday, December 3, 2010

Boards and commissions with vacancies include Board of Mechanical Examiners, Building Construction Codes Commission, Columbia vision Commission, Community Services Advisory Commission, Finance Advisory and Audit Committee, Firefighters' Retirement Board, Police Retirement Board, Public Communications Resource Advisory Committee, Source Water Protection Plan Task Force and Special Business District Board. For more information about these vacancies, go to [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com).

## LWVMO Updates

Interested in the positions adopted by the Missouri state league? It is now accessible on the League website, along with the history (and studies) of how each position came to be. To find it, go to [www.lwvmissouri.org](http://www.lwvmissouri.org) and click on "Action Center." After it downloads there should be, on the left, an icon with a blue bookmark (above the binocular icon). If you click on this icon you can select specifically the topic you wish to jump to and get directly to the section you want.

At the recent conference in Sedalia, a number of members participated and found the experience beneficial. Plan on attending next fall!



Pictured are Win Colwill, Holly Burgess, Maydell Senn, Elaine Blodgett, Liz Schmidt, Charlotte King, Lael Von Holt, Jo Sapp (back row) and Joni O'Connor, Linda Kaiser and Carolyn Leuthold (front row)



**Officers**

**President:** Linda Kaiser (474-1407)  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Rachel Brekhus  
 (875-4295)  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Carol Schreiber  
 (657-1467)  
**Secretary:** Joni O'Connor (234-1012)  
**Treasurer:** Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

**Board Members & Committee Chairs**

**Budget:** Shirley Troth (634-6157)  
**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)  
**Fundraising:**  
**Historian:** Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)  
**Hospitality:** Pam Springsteel  
 (445-0642)  
**CAT TV:** Elaine Blodgett  
 (256-2803)  
**Membership:** Linda Lenau Brown  
 (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt  
**Mental Health:** Lael Von Holt  
 (443-7747)  
**Nominating:** Sarah Wolcott (449-4407)  
**Peace:** Dick Parker (256-4397)  
**Special Events:**  
**Land Use/Sunshine Coalition:** Jo  
 Sapp (443-8964)  
**Voter Editors:** Joni O'Connor &  
 Linda Kaiser  
**Voter Service:** Carol Schreiber

**Meetings**

**Board:** 4th Monday, 6:30 pm,  
 Boone Electric Coop  
**Civil Liberties:** 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm\*  
**Education:** 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm\*  
**Energy Matters:** 3rd Tuesday, 1 pm\*  
**Fundraising:** Varies  
**Peace:** 2nd Fri., 9 am\*  
**Voter Service:** Varies\*  
 \*Meetings at Library

**Membership**

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.

To join the League, 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. (An "11" after your name indicates paid for 2011. A 2011 renewal membership form and envelope will be included in the September Voter.)

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**

[lww.columbia.missouri.org](http://lww.columbia.missouri.org) (local)  
[lwwmissouri.org](http://lwwmissouri.org) (state)  
[lww.org](http://lww.org) (national)

**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 [lindaskaiser@gmail.com](mailto:lindaskaiser@gmail.com). Let her know you would like to receive your Voter via email and send Linda the email address to which you would like to receive the Voter.**



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

P.O. Box 239

Columbia, MO 65205


<http://lwv.columbia.missouri.org>

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA, MO 65201  
Permit No. 122**

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



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

December 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	5	9 Civil Liberties Com., 1:15 pm, Library	10 Peace Com. Mtg, 1 pm, Library	11 Founding Day Lunch & Awards 11:30 am Courtyard by Marriott
12	13	14	15 Bill of Rights Day	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan. 1 
Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 8