



The Voter

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

FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 2



The 2017 LWVCBC Founders' Day Luncheon will be Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Magnolia Room, 3300 Vandiver Drive.*

The Columbia League of Women Voters began in December 1919. This annual event is always a great time to get together to celebrate our many years of service to the community.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Larry Brown. A man of many talents, Dr. Brown is an ordained minister; did his PhD research on the radical racist religious right movement called Christian Identity; is a singer and storyteller extraordinaire; and recently retired from teaching human geography at MU.

At the luncheon we will also present two special awards to outstanding members of our local community.

Our 2017 Outstanding Citizen Award will be presented to Wendy Noren, in recognition of her dedication, expertise and leadership in her role as Boone County Clerk. Please see page 4 for additional information.

This year's recipient of the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award is Room at the Inn. As Elaine Blodgett describes it, "Room at the Inn is a simple



idea that came about when people recognized the need to do more than feed and clothe those who have no home or place to stay in the bitter weather. We use the term 'simple' to state the obvious — because it 'takes a village' to do this work. We honor them in this award for the building of a simple idea which grew into a community-supported effort." See page 4 for more information about Room at the Inn.

Social time begins at 11:30 a.m., with a noon meal. The \$25 lunch will include meat and vegetarian options. Pay in advance or at the door, but please make your reservation by Nov. 25 by contacting Marilyn McLeod (573-445-3500) or lwvcbc@gmail.com.) Or you can send your reservation with a

check for \$25 payable to LWVCBC, P.O. Box 239, Columbia 65205. Please be sure to specify which lunch you prefer.

We hope you will plan to attend this enjoyable and informative event! Make your reservation today!

*You can get to the Hilton Garden Inn either via Hwy. 63N (near Bass Pro) or via Vandiver Drive (turn east off Paris Road onto Vandiver). The Magnolia Room is in the main hotel.

— Marilyn McLeod

BIOMASS-FIRED ELECTRICITY: NOV 21 LUNCH AND LEARN

Biomass-fired electricity will be the topic of the Lunch & Learn at noon on Tuesday Nov. 21, in the Friends Rm. of the Columbia/Boone County Library. Tad Johnson, Director of Columbia Water & Light and Ken Davis, Assistant Director of MU Energy Management, will discuss their present use of biomass and how biomass fits with future energy goals. There will be ample opportunity for questions from the audience!

The University last year converted a furnace to burning just wood. The City is converting one

furnace to burning 100% biomass. Up until a year ago they were burning 90% coal and 10% wood in that furnace. Biomass does not burn in the same way as coal, so the conversion is extensive. Biomass has an advantage over wind and solar in that it is a furnace-based system and can produce electricity when there is no wind or sunlight. Come and hear the experts explain how it operates and what it means.



— Dick Parker & Barbara Hoppe

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING REPORT

The LWV October 23, 2017 board meeting focused on recent and upcoming activities and provided time to reflect on new initiatives for the coming months. The board noted that CAT-TV, Lunch & Learn, and forum programs are providing members with insights into the inner working of key parts of our community. Programs have focused on or will be spotlighting the Community Land Trust Initiative, the inner working of City and University power plants, and the 'nuts and bolts' of the election process. During the final month of 2017, our League will 'round out' the year with its Founders' Day Luncheon. The December 2nd program will include good food and talk, the presentation of awards to community members who have made a huge contribution to the quality of life in Columbia, and a lively program by our guest speaker, Larry Brown—ordained minister, geography professor, story teller, and musician.

Our mission of fostering an informed citizenry is broad and suggests that we encourage education on all facets of civil society. Our League is exploring new initiatives for the coming year. Suggested possible programs include: workshops for community members on the Sunshine Law; collaborative efforts with the Kinder Institute on the essentials of constitutional democracy; essentials of protecting civil liberties in the current political environment; analysis of the redistricting process; and Citizenship 101. We welcome member feedback on the direction we should take in the

New Year to develop new programming to reflect the realities of current-day society. It is important that the League maintain its relevancy and currency on new and emerging issues as society evolves and changes. We welcome your ideas, feedback, and input as we begin to frame our discussions for the coming year.

Lastly, I am happy to report that our LWV branch has successfully "segwayed" into the 21st Century. First, the LWV website now takes payment for dues, donations, etc. via PayPal. We hope the addition of this payment option will prove to be convenient for our members and patrons. Second, we will be using new venues to engage with the community – for example, a 'happy hour' at Logboat – in the coming months. We hope that new venues will stimulate our discussions and acquaint others in the community with the vibrant and important work that the LWV does.

— Diane Suhler, 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 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 November 2017 we recognize:

- **Nanette Ward** for being our speaker at our January 2017 Lunch and Learn on the topic "Stop Human Trafficking."
- **Scott Christianson** for moderating our Annual State Legislator Town Hall in February 2017.
- **KFRU** for airing our Candidate/Ballot Issues forums on their radio station in July and October 2016 and March 2017. We also recognize **David Lile** and **Renee Hulshof** for moderating the forums. And we recognize **Tom Holmes** for the technical work for the live broadcasts and providing audio equipment.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

THE LITTLE KNOWN GEM AT MU: CAT TV NOV. 8



The November 8 CAT TV Show will highlight the MU Nuclear Reactor. The Reactor is a major economic driver at MU, as the new MU Chancellor recently pointed out. Learn about all the medical, plant science and many other amazing activities taking place at the Reactor.

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.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 8. The program will be available on our website or at

— Carol Schreiber

CLEAN MISSOURI TO VOTER PHOTO ID TO STATEHOOD FOR DC: A REPORT ON THE LWVMO FALL CONFERENCE

Sean Nicholson spoke about the Clean Missouri initiative petition. He explained that all the parts of the petition are designed to clean up the MO Legislature (end lobbyist gifts; limit campaign contributions; slow down the legislator-to-lobbyist turnaround; apply the Sunshine Law to the MO legislators; and provide for fair legislative districts). They are building Republican and Democratic support as well as liberal and conservative support. They hope to have the signatures ready to be submitted in early March. The Columbia League was given a copy of the Power Point presentation. Let us know if you would like to see the presentation.

Pettis County Clerk Nick LaStrada told us that he really likes the new provisional ballots (used when a voter has no ID). In the past, provisional ballots were only available for federal elections and now they are available for all elections. He felt that fraud tends to only occur in nursing home type situations and with absentee elections. He also assured us that MO was

not part of the Russia hack, and with paper ballots our elections are safe.

Anne Anderson, LWV Washington, DC, told us about their push for DC Statehood. Currently their city budget is controlled by the US Congress. The Congress overturns city initiatives. And DC has no voting representation in Congress. This leaves 700,000 Americans (a population greater than Delaware or Wyoming) at the mercy of Congress with no representation. Maryland and Virginia do not want DC to become part of their states. So, the only possible remedy is statehood. For more information go to lwvdc1920.org.

Columbia members attending the conference were: Lael Von Holt, Peggy Placier, Dick Parker, Joni O'Connor, David Leuthold, Carol Schreiber, Mahree Skala, Meredith Donaldson and Marilyn McLeod.

— Carol Schreiber



At Fall Conference, from left to right: Lael Von Holt, Peggy Placier, Dick Parker, Joni O'Connor, David Leuthold, Carol Schreiber, Mahree Skala, Meredith Donaldson and Marilyn McLeod.

WENDY NOREN TO RECEIVE 2017 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD

At the October meeting, the LWVCBC Board voted to present this year's Outstanding Citizen Award to Wendy Noren. This annual award is presented to an individual who has made a significant impact on the lives of individuals, groups or the community as a volunteer or as part of their job.

Wendy Noren has been a significant part of our lives since she began working at the County Clerk office in 1978. She won election to the office nine times, starting in 1982. In the intervening years she became a leading expert on elections at the state, federal and international levels. For example, she helped write the national Help America Vote Act, and advocated that the federal government provide funding for election machines since there were many rural counties that couldn't afford the election machines required by the Act.

Among her many achievements, Wendy helped improve the County Clerk's website using many technological advances. We can now look up our polling place information, see the appropriate ballot,

find out our elected officials, register to vote, update our address, and more on the website.

Wendy recently retired from her office due to health reasons. Over the years, we have called upon her many times to share her expertise at our various events. We could not be prouder of her contributions at every level of the government, but especially to our community.

— Marilyn McLeod



ROOM AT THE INN TO RECEIVE 2017 LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

As one of our members, Lael VonHolt said, "Hardly a day goes by when I don't see someone in our community - or several someones - who would likely qualify for help, especially in the cold weather season. Statistics seem to vary on how many we have in Columbia who are homeless, but the number is far too many across numerous dimensions. Room at the Inn has answered the call, and is worthy of recognition."

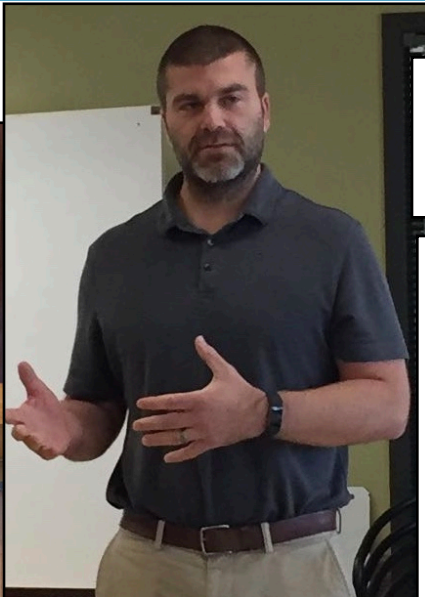
As Room at the Inn says, "We are a faith-based initiative that addresses the community-wide issue of homelessness, providing life-saving shelter. We rely on local churches and community organizations to provide not only funding, but host sites, volunteers, and supplies. Room at the Inn is a temporary winter shelter for homeless and displaced adults. We provide a warm, dry, and safe place for guests to rest between the hours of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. during December to March (dates may adjust according to weather)."

Room at the Inn is one of those simple ideas which came about when people recognized the need to do more than feed and clothe those who have no home or no place to stay, in the bitter weather. We use the term 'simple' to state the obvious--because

it 'takes a village' to do this work. Several churches rotate to provide places for people to stay and usually there are food and snacks for dinner; cots for everyone to sleep on, spaced the correct distance apart; and sheets, blankets and pillows. Volunteers are there all during the time they are open, and they have to be awake. Many items guests have are placed in separate bags, marked with their names, at the 'front' for safe keeping including cigarettes, matches etc. Other bags are put in 'the back' They run 'a tight ship' there, but they watch over their flock and hope to give them some peace along with the rest.

After a day on the streets walking, sitting or perhaps doing odd jobs, people come to get out of the cold, get rested, and then go out again the next morning. Often they may have eaten at the Methodist Church nightly meal near Hickman HS. where various churches serve dinner 5-6 and then catch a ride or walk to the shelter. Many of the folks are mentally ill, 'lost', or out of work. They have fallen on hard times, and cope as best they can.

— Elaine Blodgett



**COLUMBIA
COMMUNITY LAND
TRUST**

Much thanks to Randy Cole, Columbia Housing Programs Supervisor, who gave an excellent presentation on October 17th, on the new Columbia Community Landtrust. The Landtrust is providing long-term, affordable & net zero energy housing to low income families in Columbia. Look for a you-tube video of this program coming soon.

Barbara Hoppe, Elaine Blodgett and Gayla Neumeyer have been trained by CAT-TV to tape our Lunch & Learn programs and will be learning to edit them soon. This was our first taped Lunch & Learn program. We are pleased they will now be preserved and shared with a wider audience.

— Barbara Hoppe

Randy Cole, top right, was the speaker for the Oct. 17 Lunch & Learn. Barbara Hoppe, right, introduced the speaker. Elaine Blodgett, above, recorded a video of the presentation.



A MOMENT FROM OUR LEAGUE HISTORY

At our Founder’s Luncheon on December 2, we will celebrate the 1919 founding of our local LWV chapter. Elaine Blodgett offers the following words for our reflection at this time:

In her 1919 address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a “league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation.” Women Voters was formed within the NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where suffrage had already been attained.

Catt said: “The League of Women Voters is

not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have

hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?”





Upcoming League Events!



NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	NOV 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 CAT-TV MU Nuclear Reactor 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Lunch and Learn Noon Public Library	22	23	24	25
26	27 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	28	29	30	DEC 1	2 FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON 11:30 Social time 12:00 Luncheon Hilton Garden Inn
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

LWV Officers:

President: Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 1st VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
 Treasurer: David Leuthold (449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
 Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)
 Vena Long (777-2487)
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
 Gayla Neumeyer (882-8366)
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

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

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
 Civil Liberties: Open position
 Education: Vena Long
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Fundraising: Pam Springsteel
 Health: Mahree Skala
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
 Membership: Meredith Donaldson
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwcabc.org
 State: lvmissouri.org
 National: lvw.org
 Local Voter Information Portal: lvwcolumbiamo.turbovote.org
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"



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 League of Women Voters CBC welcomes new members Carolyn Johnson, Brianna Lennon, Marian Minor, Ashley Stevens and Torie Townsend.

The following Letter to the Editor appeared in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* on October 17, 2017:

Making Democracy Work

Regardless of how the Supreme Court votes on the Wisconsin redistricting case, (Gill v. Whitford) the League of Women Voters continues support for fair redistricting on national, state and local levels. The ultimate voting right—one person, one vote—happens when states have fair voting districts, which are critical to maintaining a democracy. If citizens believe their vote is worthless they no longer vote. Our democracy needs the input of all citizens and all citizens need to know that their vote will have equal influence on the outcome of elections.

Elaine Blodgett and Sharon Schneeberger
Columbia Boone County League of Women Voters



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSOURIAN WINS AWARD FOR ARTICLE ON LIZ SCHMIDT

Even posthumously, our dear Liz Schmidt, who died last year, was remembered as a "humanitarian and tireless community member." This was noted in awards received recently by the *Columbia Missourian*. In the Missouri Press Association's 2017 Better Newspaper Contest, the *Missourian* won first place in the division of newspapers of 5,001 to 15,000 for its Best News or Feature Obituary.

Thanks to Liz for living that life and for sharing it with us and the community, and to reporter Alexander Ransom for writing her story. We will honor her memory on Dec. 2 as we present the 2017 Liz Schmidt Community Service Award to Room at the Inn (details in articles on pg.1 and pg. 4).

— Joni O'Connor



Liz Schmidt, Sept. 1929 - Sept. 2016

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018!!
