



# The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 75, No. 11

NOVEMBER, 2010

## The Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act; How Will It Affect You?

Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use only the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place. ~Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor*, 1977

On **Tuesday, November 9 at 7 p.m.** (refreshments at 6:30 p.m.), the League of Women Voters and Columbia Public Library will sponsor a program on the Affordable Care Act and where it stands as we approach the end of the year.

Our speakers will be **Dr. Karen Edison, Director of Health Care Policy for University of Missouri** and **Amy Smoucha, Health Care Organizer, Missouri Jobs with Justice**. Both women have excellent knowledge of the program. We will be asking them the questions that all Americans want to know about this act...

- How is it paid for
- What are the changes in Medicare and Medicaid
- Changes for employers
- Changes for insurance companies
- Changes for families

With their expertise they can give the straight facts and dispel the misinformation and disinformation. They will also talk about how citizens can participate in the process of shaping this health bill.

**Please come for this very important program and bring family and friends.**

Holly Burgess  
Pam Springsteel

*Note: Originally Judy Baker, Regional Director of U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services was going to be one of the speakers, but conflicts with her job made it impossible. We will look forward to have Director Baker join us for a further update.*

## After Citizens United, What?



Did you attend the Constitution Day program, "If You Prick Them, Do They Bleed? Corporations as Persons" or watch it on Mediacom or CAT-TV? If so (or even if your didn't), you may want to come to one of the unit meetings this month. The topic will be the DISCLOSE Act and other options regarding the massive amounts of money flowing into this election cycle from unknown donors.

**As one of our members said, "If money is speech, then don't we have a right to know who is speaking?"**

One session is Wednesday night, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Bertrice Bartlett, 1627 Wilson (parking on the south side only of Wilson). The other session is at 12 noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Election Day, Tues., Nov. 2**
- **LWVMO Conference, Se-dalia, Sat., Nov. 6**
- **Patient Protection Act: An Explanation, Tues., Nov. 9, 7:00 pm, Library**
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Nov. 11, 1: 15 pm., Library**
- **Energy Matters Com. Mtg., Tues., Nov. 16. 1 pm, Li-brary**
- **Unit Mtg., "After Citizens United, What?" Wed., Nov. 17, 7:00 pm, 1627 Wilson**
- **Unit Mtg., "After Citizens United, What?" Thurs., Nov. 18, 12 noon, 1st Pres. Church**
- **Board Mtg., Mon., Nov. 22, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric**
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Dec.. 9, 1: 15 pm., Library**
- **Founding Luncheon, Sat., Dec. 11, 11:30 am, Court-yard by Marriot**

## Fact Checking

*In this election cycle, voters wanting to check the accuracy of campaign ads can go to .....*

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

## Negative Political Advertising



Elections have always been contentious affairs. Unfortunately, we seem to have hit an all time low this year with the number and extreme nature of “attack” ads run by candidates, established groups with clear agendas (e.g., big labor and the Chamber of Commerce) and, more recently, unknown ad hoc groups that have sprung up overnight with huge amounts of money to spend. Analysts are now estimating that political television ads will reach some \$3 billion, up 50% over what was expected.

Viewers who see distortions in an ad (always clearer in those of the other side), sometimes wonder why stations run such ads when they are so clearly misrepresent the candidate. The answer – it’s the law. “Just as in the case with federal candidates, ads by state candidates cannot be censored by a station,” David Oxenford says at David Wright Tremaine’s [Broadcast Law Blog](#). “Thus, except in certain very unusual situations--where the language of the ad would violate some federal criminal statute, e.g. if it is obscene, a station must air the ad as it was created. It cannot be rejected because the station disagrees with the content or the tone, and it cannot be pulled even if the opposing candidate believes it to be defamatory.”

Elizabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS, says, “The League of Women Voters has been calling attention to secret money being spent on political advertising, but the U.S. Senate has refused to act to require disclosure, even after the House of Representatives passed a strong disclosure bill.” And, “Essentially, these organizations are functioning as Political Action Committees but without having to follow the laws requiring disclosure of their donors. It should come as no surprise that they lobbied against the DISCLOSE Act in Congress, which would have stopped manipulation of elections by fly-by-night anonymous hit groups.

So, what can you and I do? Although it seems like an overwhelming problem, at least let your candidates know that you don’t like such ads. Contact your local media with the same message. Lobby your Congressional and Legislative representatives to support the DISCLOSE Act (and similar state legislation) so that we can know who is financially supporting such advertising and, if appropriate, notifying the president of such an organization that you will not buy its products. What ideas do you have?

Linda Kaiser  
President



Looking for election information? Go to our website, where links to information on races and ballot issues can be found.

<http://lww.columbia.missouri.org/2010guide.htm>

**Don’t forget to vote on Tuesday, November 2**

## Two Projects by the Energy Matters Committee

The Energy Matters Committee has decided to explore two projects this year - One is a flier to educate renters on saving money on utilities and the second is an action plan for the city in pursuing the goals of the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement. After drafting the documents, the Committee will work with others to implement the programs.

If you are interested in one or both of these two topics, we would be delighted to have you join us in either effort. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11-16-10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Library in Conference room A.



Dick Parker, Co-Chair

## Founding Day Luncheon

Friday, December 11, 2009 the League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone County will celebrate its ninth decade! Luncheon activities will begin at 11:30 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 3301 Lemone Industrial Boulevard.

In case you missed it last year, we will again have posters and notebooks showing League activities from the past and current years. A special treat will be a performance by our own Holly Burgess on Eleanor Roosevelt. (For those who might not know, Eleanor Roosevelt was a very active League member prior to her husband's election to the White House. She joined the LWV of New York in 1920, later becoming chair of its Legislative Affairs Committee.)

***Don't miss out on the fun! Invite your spouse and friends to join us. Mail your reservation today using the Registration Form enclosed in this Voter. Lunch is \$22, check payable to Columbia/Boone County LWV, mailed by December 1st to Liz Schmidt, 1700 Forum Blvd, #3101, Columbia 65203.***



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

Kate Denehy, 819-6156, 414 E. Rockcreek Dr., 65203  
[mckd7705@gmail.com](mailto:mckd7705@gmail.com)

Joyce Schulte, 641-202-0355, 5410 Kelsey Dr., 65202  
[EJHSchulte@gmail.com](mailto:EJHSchulte@gmail.com)

Mike and Sarah Seat, 234-7299, 1206 Sunset Drive, 65203  
[seatster@yahoo.com](mailto:seatster@yahoo.com)

Allison Skare, 816-668-3918, 3803 Village Park Drive, 65201 [amskare@yahoo.com](mailto:amskare@yahoo.com)



## 2011 Membership Dues: Have You Sent In Yours?

Dues for 2011 are now payable. In September, we sent the envelope, and, if you still have it, it will still be useful. Dues may be sent to Liz Schmidt, 1700 Forum Blvd, #3101, 65203, or to LWV, PO Box 239, 65205.

Dues are currently \$55, with household remaining at \$80, and student at \$15. We have several new members and about 30 of our regulars have already responded. If you have an 11 after your name on the address label, you are paid. (For those on email, we'll think of something!)



:Linda Brown and Liz Schmidt  
 Membership Co-chairs

## Education News



Public Education has so many challenges and the LWV Education Committee plans to study and analyze them this year. Will we come up with answers? Who knows, but at least we will be better informed and can better hold our elected officials accountable for the government's role in our education system.

As the Columbia Public School starts their new school year I decided to see what was going on in the classrooms and buildings. What I discovered looking at CPS website was that it doesn't necessarily take money for some pretty exciting things to be happening.

The Columbia Public School System is taking good nutrition seriously. Here is what one school did...

**Parkade Elementary students get hands dirty in garden.** The first-graders were among many classes at Parkade that worked to plant vegetables in the new garden late August with the help of Amy Larson and Karen Birk, a volunteer master gardener. The garden is meant to serve as a fun, educational activity for students, and the school will donate the majority of the produce to the roughly 40 kids at Parkade who participate in the "buddy pack" program, which sends backpacks full of food home with students from low-income families over weekends or holidays to supplement their meals.

For the kids, the garden was mostly a chance to have fun and get a little dirty. It also presented them with the opportunity to learn science. Ms. Larson was thrilled that the garden, an operation several months in the making, was taking off and said she'd like to spread the idea throughout Columbia Public Schools.

Holly Burgess, Co-Chair  
Education Committee

## Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award: Its Not Too Late to Nominate Someone!



We would like your help this year to identify individuals who should be recognized for their contributions to the well-being of others within our community. Many individuals in the community have had significant impact on other individuals or groups, whether as a volunteer or as part of their job. Some may be well known; others are not. If you know of such an individual or individuals, please nominate them for this honor. The board will make a final decision on the award. We need the following information for each nominee:

\*\*Name

\*\*Contact information (address, telephone number)

\*\*Identify the reasons why you are nominating the individual with as many details as possible.

\*\*Your name and telephone number

Send your nominations to Linda S. Kaiser, President, via email ([lindaskaiser@gmail.com](mailto:lindaskaiser@gmail.com)) or by mail (821 NW Park Lane, Columbia 65201). It must be received by Monday, November 10, 2010 (deadline extended)

**This is an excellent way to recognize someone who does much for others in our community. Please take a few minutes and submit a nomination for our Outstanding Citizen of the Year.**

## Preventive Violence

Over the past several decades the medical profession has focused more and more on "preventive medicine" and the management of disease in its early stages. The Department of Peace aims to do this for violence.



The U.S. has a well developed ability to intervene after violence has occurred. We have excellent police forces and a very strong military. What we need much more of is "preventive violence" programs.

The proposed activities for the Department of Peace are designed to promote, research, field test, and achieve wide spread adoption of best practices to reduce violence within the U.S. and internationally. More than 3/4 of the proposed funding is for programs within the U.S. to reduce domestic violence, gang violence, bullying, recidivism, police-community conflict and the training of professionals in these areas. There are also programs aimed at providing trained professionals in defusing the causes of tensions internationally and de-escalating tensions after armed conflict has occurred. We need a huge increase in "preventive violence" programs.

Dick Parker, Chair  
Peace Committee

## Candidate Forums—An Issue

In the last two candidate forums sponsored by the League, at least one candidate did not show up. Because League rules prohibit an "empty chair" debate due to its designation as a 501 (c) 3 organization, if a candidate does not show up, we are required to only identify the candidate in a two-person race and indicate that he/she will be available after the forum for any questions. Members and non-members alike have concerns about this policy and the perception that it gives power to candidates who choose not to be available in such a nonpartisan forum, even though the League clearly announces that the absent candidate had made a commitment to appear and had not notified the League of any problems. (If we are notified in advance that a candidate is unable to appear, we can make adjustments, i.e., having candidates for all races be available for questions at the same time.)

As this is happening more frequently around the country, as candidates choose to appear before only "friendly" audiences, a number of local Leagues (ours included) have asked the national League to address the issue. We will keep you informed of any changes (or, if no changes are made in the policy).

## Interested in Local Government?

On Columbia's ballot next April will be City Council positions for Ward 1 and Ward 5. Candidates wishing to run must file a petition for office with the City Clerk. The first day to file is October 26 and the last day to file is January 11, 2011. Petition forms may be obtained in the City Clerk's Office on the second floor of the City Hall Building, 701 East Broadway, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.—12 noon and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.





## News from Our Members



In October, the National Academic Advising Association recognized MU faculty advisor (and League member) **Dr. Wayne Brekhus** with a 1010 Outstanding Advisor Certificate of Merit for Faculty Advising at its national conference in Orlando. Wayne also received the 2009 Missouri Academic Advising Association Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for Faculty Advising as well as the MU Excellence in Advising Award earlier that year.

On Saturday, October 23, **Nan Unklesbay** (a member of the Education Committee) had a book signing at the Columbia Public Library for her new book, *"Swimming Against the Tide: Strong Recovery From Stroke."* Unklesbay is an internationally known food scientist and was once named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the "Innovators of the Millennium." In her new book, Unklesbay recounts her journey in detail from a stroke she suffered seven years ago, shortly after she retired from MU.

Eric, son of new members **Mike and Sarah Seat**, won the poster contest for the Columbia Festival of the Arts this year. He has received national recognition for his illustrations. He worked in the box office at the Missouri Theatre for awhile until it closed.

## LWV Struts Its Stuff! - Pictures from the Homecoming Parade



**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:** Varies\*  
**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 [lin-daskaiser@gmail.com](mailto:lin-daskaiser@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.



**This began with the February, 2010 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**

November 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6 LWVMO Fall Conference
7	8	9 Patient Protection Act Forum, 7 pm Library	10	11 Civil Liberties Com., 1:15 pm, Library	12	13
14	15	16 Energy Matters Com. Library B, 1 pm	18 Unit Mtg.—"After Citizens United, What", 7 pm, 1327 Wilson	19 Unit Mtg.—"After Citizens United, What", 12 noon, 1st Pres. Church	20	20
21	22 Board Mtg., 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Community Room	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30	Dec. 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4
Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9 Civil Liberties Com, 1:15 pm, Library	Dec 10	Dec 11 Founding Luncheon