



# **League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County**



## **Annual Report to Members**

**May 2015 – April 2016**

### **Voter Service Activities**

- **Candidate and Ballot Issues Forums**
- **Legislators' Town Hall**
- **Voter Registration**
- **Provide Ex-Felon Voting info**

### **Member/Public Education**

- **Public Forums**
- **Lunch and Learn**
- **CAT TV Show**
- **LWVMO and LWVUS Activities**
- **KBIA Monthly Updates**

### **Advocacy**

- **Legislative Priorities Day**
- **Attend and Testify at Legislative Hearings**

### **Recognitions**

- **Outstanding Citizen Award**
- **Eleanor Goodge Award for LWV Exemplary Service**
- **Friends of the LWV**

### **Social**

- **Fall Picnic**
- **Fundraising Play**
- **Founders' Luncheon**
- **Holiday Party**
- **Annual Meeting**

### **Special Project**

- **Ran the MU Grad Student Union Vote**

## **Dear Members,**

The past year was dominated by participating in two LWVUS consensus studies: Amending the Constitution and Money in Politics. We had public forums, a CAT TV show, and a Lunch and Learn on these topics. We completed our Amending the Constitution consensus meeting on October 28 and the Money in Politics consensus meeting on January 21.

One of our other top priorities for the past year was to promote citizen service on Columbia and Boone County Boards and Commissions. We have had articles in the Voter as well as a Lunch and Learn on this topic.

We also have worked on improving voter registration in Boone County by teaming up with TurboVote. This on-line voter registration site reminds voters of registration deadlines, polling locations, etc. MU has their own TurboVote site. The LWV site is for Boone County colleges, high schools and citizens. We had a voter registration day at Stephens College and are planning high school voter registration.

Fighting Photo Voter ID has been another big issue for our local and state Leagues. We will be preparing our campaign to help defeat any ballot issues that restrict the right to vote.

Thanks for all our volunteers who helped us make this a great year to be a member of the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County.

**Carol Schreiber and Peggy Placier, Co-Presidents**

## **Voter Service Activities**

- Joined forces with TurboVote to make voter registration easier. Voter registrations event at Stephens College. Planning high school voter registrations. The site is at [lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org](http://lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org).
- Candidate/Ballot Issue forums on March 21 and 23, 2015 for the April 5<sup>th</sup> Local Election.
- State Legislators' Town Hall on February 4, 2016
- The LWV prepared and distributed an Ex-Felon Voter Rights information sheet attached to a voter registration card

## **Member and Public Education**

### ***Public Forums***

Our public forums related to the two LWVUS consensus studies: Money in Politics and Constitutional Amendment Process. We were also asked to work with the Columbia/Boone County Board of Health to put on a forum on GMOs.

**Amending the Constitution: Democratic Opportunity or Unintended Consequences?** on September 16 with Professor Justin Dyer from MU.

**Do Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) Affect Human Health and the Environment?** on October 20. Our panel included Alan Wessler from MFA, Prof. R. Michael Roberts from MU, Prof. Kevin Bradley from MU, Robert Kremer from MU, and physical therapist Dan Kuebler. David Lile served as our moderator.

**Money in Politics** on November 9. Panel members were attorney Steve Scott, Dr. Jeffrey Milyo from MU, and the Honorable Mary Still, former MO State Representative. LWV member Peggy Placier was the moderator.

### ***Lunch and Learn***

- **Mass Incarceration and the Sentencing Process** on May 12 with Judge Gary Oxenhandler.
- **Money in Politics** on September 15<sup>th</sup> with Peggy Placier and Diane Suhler.
- **Park Sales Tax** on October 20<sup>th</sup> with Columbia Parks and Recreation Director Mike Griggs.
- **Joining Boards and Commissions** on November 17<sup>th</sup> with former Columbia City Council person Barbara Hoppe and Northern Boone County Commissioner Janet Thompson.
- **Missouri's Clean Power Plan** on January 19<sup>th</sup> with MO Department of Air Pollution Control Director Kyra Moore.
- **Obamacare: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly** on February 16<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Jack Colwill.
- **Cradle to Career Alliance** on March 15<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Pam Conway.
- **Youth Empowerment Zone** on April 19<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Lorenzo Lawson.

### ***CAT TV Shows***

We have a dedicated committee that plans public interest programs on Columbia Access TV. The programs are shown live and available on YouTube and on CAT TV's website. Jim Robertson, managing editor, Columbia Daily Tribune was our main moderator and Randy Picht, executive director, MU Reynold's Institute of Journalism was our substitute moderator. Here are the shows since our last Annual Meeting in April 2015:

- **Vaccinations, Superbugs & Ebola: What the Public Needs to Know** on May 20<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Michael Cooperstock from MU and Eddie Hedricks, retired from the MO Department of Health.
- **Capital Improvements Sales Tax** on July 8<sup>th</sup> with Bob Roper, Dave Nichols, assistant director, Columbia Public Works, and Randy White, Columbia Fire Chief.
- **Making Democracy Work: How News Media and Citizens Can Work Together** on August 12<sup>th</sup> with Sarah Read, consultant, with the Columbia Daily Tribune's Kettering Foundation project, Robert Ross, former city of Columbia spokesman and LWV Co-President Peggy Placier.
- **The State of the American Worker** on September 9<sup>th</sup> with Regina Guevera, union specialist, Prof. Matt Pezold from MU and Jess Newkirk, local businessman.
- **Money in Politics** on October 14<sup>th</sup> with Rudi Keller, reporter, Columbia Daily Tribune, John Schultz, chair, Libertarian Party and Sean Nicholson, Progress Missouri.
- **Affordable Housing** on November 11<sup>th</sup> with Phil Steinhaus, director, Columbia Housing Department and Ian Thomas, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Columbia City Councilman.
- **Race Matters** on January 13<sup>th</sup> with Nikki McGruder, Diversity Awareness, Traci Wilson-Kleecamp from Race Matters and Lynn Maloney, concerned citizen.
- **Weather Extremes: Preparedness and Response** on February 10<sup>th</sup> with Prof. Tony Lupo from MU and Terry Cassil, Boone County Emergency Management Director.
- **State Government Overreach?** on March 9<sup>th</sup> with Karen Miller, Southern Boone County Commissioner, Michael Trapp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Columbia City Councilman, and Clint Swift, MU grad student.
- **Epidemics of Heroin, Meth and Prescriptions Drugs** on April 13<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Luke Buffaloe from MU Health, Jared Torbet, licensed counselor, Phoenix Health Programs, Lt. Jason Jones, Columbia Police Department and Leigh Spence, director of counseling, Battle High School.

### ***LWVMO and LWVUS Activities***

- Members attended the LWVMO Fall Conference on November 7th, 2015 in Sedalia
- LWVMO Lobby Day on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City presenting LWV 2016 priorities
- Members participated in Medicaid expansion lobbying activities; testified at PhotoVoter ID hearing at the Missouri House hearing and participated in the Equal Pay Rally Day at the Capitol on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Recognitions**

- **Outstanding Citizen Award** was given to **Pat Fowler** at our Founder's Luncheon on November 14<sup>th</sup>. **Mary Beth Brown**, MU grad student, was our speaker.
- **Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the LWV** is being given to **Win Colwill** at our Annual Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. **Barbra Horrell** will be our speaker.
- **The Friends of the LWV** is a way for us to thank individuals who help us educate our members and the public. We have a list of those people and companies in the annual meeting program and we will vote on recognizing them as Friends of the LWV.

### **Special Projects**

- Our local League joined other Missouri Leagues and the LWVMO in donating to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial to be located in the Occoquan Regional Park in northern Virginia. Missouri's total donations were over \$1000, so we will be recognized on the Donor Wall.
- The LWV was asked to act as an impartial entity in running the MU Grad Students vote to determine interest in forming a union. Volunteers ran the two-day election on April 18 and 19 at two locations and counted the votes.
- The Columbia Tribune asked LWV members to facilitate public discussions on how to improve the sense of community in Columbia. This project was funded by the Kettering Foundation.

### **Fundraising**

- Fundraising Play each year with Columbia Entertainment Company. In June 2015 our play was "Lucky Stiff," and we raised nearly \$4,000.
- The MU Grad Student vote was also a fundraiser, as we were paid \$1500 for our volunteers' time and effort.

### **Contact Info**

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