



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 75, No. 10

OCTOBER, 2010

Election Forums



Co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library, there will be two forums, both in the Friends Room at the Library, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. with refreshments at 6:00 p.m.

The first forum, Wednesday, October 13, will be devoted to the candidates in contested races. These races include State Representatives for Districts 21, 23 and 24, and Presiding Boone County Commissioner.

The second forum, Tuesday, October 19, will focus on the ballot issues. Pro and con speakers have been confirmed for the local issues (extension of Columbia's parks tax and the proposed ban on tasers). Speakers are still in the confirmation process for statewide Proposition A (earnings tax) and Proposition B (puppy mills). For the three Constitutional Amendments, only the ballot language will be read.

Carol Schreiber
Chair

All Kids Can.....learn to vote!



The Education Committee is steaming ahead, preparing for the upcoming series of events addressing civics education for young people and their families. As young voters flexed their political muscle in 2008, helping to put Obama in the White House, exit polls showed Obama drew 66% of voters under 30. The 2008 election was the first time since 1992 that a majority of young voters turned out according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. Our objective is to build on that momentum.

The first event, to be held on Friday, October 29, at the Columbia Public Library, is an information gathering session to discover what resources are now being used in schools, youth groups and other organizations. About 50 groups in Boone County has been invited to participate in the sessions and to complete a brief survey. All League members are also invited to participate.

The second event, to be held early 2011, will be a media conference open to the public. At that time, the Education Committee will issue a special report summarizing the finds of the October session. It also will include a variety of recommendations for future activities to help young people learn to vote and to actually vote. Possible partnerships will be included as well.

League helpers are needed. The Committee needs 5-7 volunteers to assist with the October event, to serve as table facilitators and to welcome participants. If you can help, contact Zona Burk at 234-1083 or z.burk@mchsi.com.

Zona Burk, Co-Chair
Education Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Candidate Forum, Wed., Oct. 13, 6:30 pm, Library**
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Oct. 14, 1: 15 pm., Library**
- **Energy Matters Com., Tues., Oct. 19, 1:00 pm, Library C**
- **Ballot Issues Forum, Tues., Oct. 19, 6:30 pm, Library**
- **MU Homecoming Parade participation**
- **Board Mtg., Mon., Oct. 28, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric**
- **Civic Education Conference, Fri., Oct. 29, 1:30-4:30 pm, Library**

Last day to register to vote in November election is Wed., Oct. 6

- **Election Day, Tues., Nov. 2**
- **LWVMO Conference, Sedalia, 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**

Fact Checking

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

www.politifact.com or www.factcheck.org

A Rally to Restore Sanity?



Later this month, comedian Jon Stewart is holding a Rally to Restore Sanity in Washington, DC with the object of “to take it down a notch for America.” Isn’t it unfortunate that our political discourse has reached the point where such a rally is garnering thousands of supporters!

In a recent editorial in the *Columbia Missourian*, George Kennedy refers to “an institutional” bias of journalists and their “consistent attraction to the negative.” It would be all too easy, however, to blame the media for its focus on the most extreme pronouncements of citizens and politicians. Citizens must share the responsibility.

How many times have you, frustrated at false or misleading statements or ads, composed a letter to the editor (or to a station news manager) in your head, but never actually made the time to write and send it in? I suspect, like me, it is all too often. By failing to participate in the public discourse, we allow the most extreme views to take control of discussion and create inaccurate (at worse) or incomplete (at best) perceptions of the critical issues of our day.

In the computer age, it is extremely easy to voice your opinions. For Columbia residents, go to www.columbiamissourian.com or www.dailytribune.com. In either case, click on the “contact us” button to submit a letter. Of course, you can always actually write a letter and drop it off or mail it to either paper.

Let your voice of reason become part of the dialog - write today!

Linda Kaiser
President

LWV Struts Its Stuff!

Join us in the Mizzou Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 23. We already have a commitment for a convertible and are looking for a truck or flatbed. (Let us know if you can access one!) We will be handing out candy and Bill of Rights bookmarks,

In the spirit of the early suffragists, wear white tops (if possible) and we will have yellow ribbon for sashes. Bring your kids, grandkids, friends, neighbors.....Let’s be well represented!

You can walk or ride or both (it’s a long parade!)

We will be sending out further announcements once we have the assembling location and time confirmed, so let us know if you plan to participate (although you can also just show up). Call me at 449-0625 or email me at hburgess8@yahoo.com



Holly Burgess, Co-Chair
Education Committee

Welcome to our newest members of our League:

Irene Karns, 2417 Lynnwood Drive 65203

ikarns4@gmail.com

Myrna Maurer, 6477 S. Mt. Celestial Rd. 65203

LadyLil2010@gmail.com

Barbara Knowles, 1220 Ridge Rd. 65203 bk120@yahoo.com



Global Day of Climate Action

On October 10, 2010, thousands of communities around the globe and League members throughout the U.S. will be taking action to address climate change - celebrating what people can do right now to make an impact, garnering media attention for climate action and sending a strong message to decision-makers at all levels that it's time for them to do their job, too.

This 10-10-10 initiative was started by 350.org, an international campaign that's building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million, the level leading scientists say is necessary to avoid runaway climate change.



Each of us can participate by taking positive action on October 10. Send a message to Senators Bond and McCaskill and Congressman Luetkemeyer - urge them to support a strong climate-energy bill to reduce greenhouse gases and spur clean energy technologies. One of the most important things we can do is to upgrade the efficiency of our homes. Certain improvements, *if completed before December 31, 2010*, are eligible for a 30% federal tax credit up to \$1500. For details visit www.energystar.gov/.

As a first step, contact Columbia Water & Light or Boone Electric Coop to arrange for a comprehensive energy audit of your house by a certified auditor. Utility customers can receive rebates for Implementation of recommended improvements, such as insulation, air sealing, and heating/cooling systems. Columbia Water & Light has a handy chart showing all the energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates/tax incentives available from our local electric utility companies, AmerenUE, and the federal government, with links for additional information: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/energyefficiencyrebates.php>

More ideas: Buy renewable energy - join Columbia Water & Light's Solar One program or sign up for Green Power from Boone Electric Coop. Install a programmable thermostat to save energy and money. Replace at least five incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Improve your gas mileage - check the air pressure in your car tires and inflate them to recommended levels. If you're in the market for a new car, purchase a fuel-efficient, low-emissions model: www.fueleconomy.gov/

Please share your ideas for climate action with the Energy Matters Committee – email Colwillw@gmail.com or rhparker1@centurytel.com. Our next meeting is on October 19 – we welcome new members!

Win Colwill
Energy Matters Co-Chair

Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award

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) or by mail (821 NW Park Lane, Columbia 65201). It must be received by Monday, November 1, 2010.

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.

Better Health Coverage Coming

New insurance protections took effect on September 23

On the 6-month anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act there are several provisions that take effect. Two of these provisions may improve coverage for families. First, insurance companies cannot deny coverage for children with a pre-existing condition. This means children with a medical condition, like asthma or cancer, can no longer be denied coverage for the treatment of their condition. Second, parents can keep adult children up to age 26 on their health plan.

Additional consumer protections taking effect this week include:

- Not allowing insurance companies to drop an individual's coverage when they become sick (a practice called rescission), except in cases of fraud;
- Regulating what an insurer can set as the maximum amount to spend on an individual in a year (annual limits) for essential benefits, such as emergency services and maternity care;
- Removing the maximum dollar amount an insurer will spend on an individual (lifetime limit).

Also, new health plans must cover recommended preventive services with no co-pays or deductibles and allow women to see an obstetrician/gynecologist without a referral from a primary care doctor.

Learn more - Get more information about provisions taking effect this month at www.healthcare.gov.

From Cover Missouri, a publication of Missouri Foundation for Health

Health Updates

Cover Missouri:

Brochures by the Missouri Foundation for Health (also known as Cover Missouri) are available and have already been distributed to some of you. They are very well done. If you have not yet received a copy and want one, please let me know.

And remember to check in to the MFH website on health reform - www.covermissouri.org Lots of good information on that site about the federal law and its impact in Missouri.

Suicide Prevention Plan for Missouri:

Department of Mental Health and Pathways Behavioral Health are promoting a Suicide Prevention Plan for Missouri, and encouraging the formation of a local coalition to work in its behalf. The Boone County Mental Health Board of Trustees is assisting in this effort.

In addition, DMH this past year has promoted the Mental Health First Aide program for community outreach and training.

DMH has experienced severe budget cuts and this outreach to the citizens, in collaboration with Pathways and the BCMHBT, is a serious attempt to educate communities on mental health issues and to provide opportunity for participation.

Let me know if you're interested, particularly in the local coalition for suicide prevention which is expected to form this fall.

Lael Von Holt
-lvh01@webtv.net

Recycling News

Recycling information is now right at your fingertips! The Energy Matters' Recycling Brochure was recently posted by Rachel Brekhus on our League's website. The committee also thanks member Kay Hunvald, who compiled and organized most of the information in the brochure.

Just go to the Home page (lwv.columbia.missouri.org) then click on "Energy Committee's Recycling Brochure" to link to information about the City of Columbia's recycling programs and businesses that accept recyclables at little or no cost.



Check it out today and start recycling!

Membership Dues

Ding a Ling -- we are ringing your memory chime -- to send in your dues for 2011. Last month 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!)



Membership Co-chairs: Linda Brown, 447-3939 or Liz Schmidt 445-0655

Long time LWV member Lorene Emmerson died on Thursday, September 16, 2010. She had been ill quite a long while. Among other things, Lorene was our parliamentarian for all meetings, was a strong member of the Voter Service Committee, and did a lot of research for the voter forums on issues and candidates. She was extremely aware of the work it takes to be a candidate or office holder at any level of government. One time she insisted and carried out an appreciation reception after a particularly divisive election for ALL who ran for office that year. Lorene graduated at Hickman High School, taught for years in the Marshall Public Schools, and moved back to Columbia when she retired.

A memorial service will be held in the near future. If you would like to attend, please contact Joni O'Connor (234-1012 or joni@h2oc.com) for more information.

News from Our Members



I have been giving talks to civic groups about the possibility of using biomass to fuel Columbia's power plant on Business Loop 70 (a portion of my 80% renewable energy by 2020 plan). Columbia has 73.5 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity in three generators at that location. Burns & McDonnell, in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) study which they performed for the city in 2008, recommended that Columbia consider converting these three generators to a mixture of 50% coal and 50% biomass. (When asked, Kia Harris, from Burns & McDonnell stated that conversion to 100% biomass would be a similar cost).

Biomass, like coal, can generate power when it is needed. The other main renewable resources of wind and sun are, of course, not so reliable.

If we used these generators as base load equipment, running them most of the time, we could generate almost half of our electricity. Using IRP numbers, the conversion would cost about \$216 million. The IRP also projected that there would be a cost to releasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fossil sources. The construction cost would be paid with a 20 year bond. Over that period I estimate, from IRP numbers, that if we burned coal for an equivalent amount of electricity that it would average \$5 million a year more..

The cost of biomass for fuel is uncertain at this time since there is very little market. We currently burn a little and it is cheaper than coal. We would purchase the majority of the fuel from local farmers, about \$20 million annually, and much of that would come back into Columbia businesses (versus sending this money to coal companies in other states).

The sources of biomass would likely be hay, switchgrass (mainly) and tree farms of fast growing hybrid poplars. Switchgrass, the primary fuel source, is a native grass but is not grown for cattle feed. Tree farms would be a new crop in this area but is a well known crop in other parts of the country. Tree farms are harvested every 3 to 7 years. There would also be some biomass from crop residues such as corn cobs and some from small forest acreage on farms. As with all agricultural crops, we would need to encourage sustainable practices. In general farms and forests are getting better at sustainable practices but not as rapidly as most of us would like.

If you belong to a group who would like a half hour or hour talk and PowerPoint presentation please contact me at 256-4397 or rbparker1@centurytel.net.

Dick Parker

Election Prep on the Web: Puppy Mills

At our Wednesday evening discussion meeting, we talked about the many different ballot issues that will be before mid-Missouri voters this November 2nd, including Prop. B, on "puppy mills" that would regulate USDA-licensed dog breeders. One member pointed out that she'd be interested in knowing how other states deal with the issue of dog breeding operations of various kinds and sizes. As it happens, there are some helpful resources to help educate voters on the issue.

Sites comparing puppy mill regulations across the U.S.: (1) The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has put together the 33 state laws regulating "puppy mills" in one place, with a clickable U.S. map linking each state to its statute language. <http://www.animallaw.info/articles/armpusbreedinglaws.htm>. (2) To see a summary of the state statutes instead of the full text (but with links to full text), you can use this chart: <http://www.animallaw.info/articles/ovuspupymilltable.htm>, maintained by Michigan State University's Animal Legal and Historical Center. For each state, the chart answers the questions, "Who is covered? Breeder, Kennel, Pet Shop or Dealer?" "Is registration and inspection required?" "Are there penalties for noncompliance?" and "Does the law address the care of animals?"

General site with information on all Missouri ballot issues: Ballotpedia has summaries of the state-level issues on the Missouri ballot and gives links to groups for and against the issues, with summaries of their arguments. http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Missouri_2010_ballot_measures

Sites with information from supporters and detractors of Proposition B: (1) "Missouri's Puppy Mill Problem," <http://www.maal.org/Puppy-Mills.asp>, is maintained by the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation, the organization that put the issue on the ballot. (2) Missouri Farm Family Agriculture Alliance, <http://www.moagriculture.com/>, has links to the organizations' statements against the proposition (press release and KFRU radio interview).

Rachel Brekhus
Webmaster

Officers

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

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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 (469-
 1383) & Dick Parker
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: 4th 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 (local)
lwwmissouri.org (state)
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. 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://lww.columbia.missouri.org>

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Last day to register to vote	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm, Library	14 Civil Liberties Com., 1:15 pm, Library B	14	16
17	18	19 Energy Matters Com. Library B, 1 pm Ballot Issues Fo- rum, 6:30 pm, Library	20	21	22	23 MU Homecom- ing Parade par- ticipation
24	25 Board Mtg., 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Community Room	26	27	28	29 Civics Ed. Conf., 1:30-4:30, Library	30
31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2 Election Day	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 LWVMO Conf.