



LWV-CBC Annual Business Meeting



April 27, 2024

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Dear LWV-CBC Members,

2023-24 has been an exciting, active year for the League. Our work educating and registering voters, informing the public about important issues, and advocating for sound laws and policies is more important than ever in this watershed election year.

Many, many member volunteers and collaborative partners have been involved and I want to thank everyone who has helped support the League. All the Board members have devoted their time and energy, as have the Committee members who helped plan and carry out most of the activities listed in this report.

I would like to especially thank Barbara Hoppe, Past President, for helping guide me through this first year. We are so lucky to have Marilyn McLeod continue to serve on the board—as LWVMO President, she is our public face and voice at legislative hearings, press conferences, and court proceedings. She is always poised, articulate and persuasive and we appreciate her grace and sense of humor as well.

Renee Powell deserves special recognition for bravely undergoing many hours of questioning as a key witness in a lawsuit challenging the narrow MO photo ID law that worsens barriers to participation by disabled voters.

Several members are essential to our operations behind the scenes, especially Sharon Schneeberger, who is our Zoom wizard, and Ava Fajen, who skillfully creates the Voter every month. Carol Schreiber is the faithful Secretary who records all our meetings and official actions and serves as the historical memory of the group. And Pam Springsteel wears several hats, among them Hospitality Chair who plans our social events.

I also want to thank the leaders who have taken on very visible activities within LWV-CBC. To highlight a few—Kate Canterbury is our new Membership Chair and is doing a great job of filling the very large shoes left by Meredith Donaldson. Linda Smith continues to excel at leading Voter Registration and Education, finding many new venues and volunteers for this important activity. Carol Schreiber leads Voter Services and does an amazing job with the forums and Voter Guides. Barbara Hoppe plans the excellent Lunch and Learn sessions. Sharon Schneeberger heads the excellent Social Media team that is taking us to new audiences. And the Education Committee, co-chaired by Susie Adams and Zainab Jasim, has created new relationships with high school and college students that will influence their voting habits for a lifetime.

Finally, I again want to say THANK YOU to all the members who have supported the League's work by attending events, registering voters, testifying to legislative committees online or in person, contacting your representatives, or simply by paying your dues and sharing information about voting with your family and friends. Because of you we continue to grow and thrive.

Mahree Skala, LWV-CBC President

LWVCBC Activities and Events May 2023 to April 2024

Voter Education:

- Voter Services Committee welcomed members to plan 2024 activities on Jan 6, 2024
- “Looking Ahead: State Legislative Update” on February 8, 2024 with State Representatives Kathy Steinhoff, David Tyson Smith, Adrian Plank and Doug Mann
- Voter Guide for the April 2nd Election was available on-line starting March 8, 2024
- “Candidate and Ballot Issue Forum” for the April 2nd Election was held on March 21, 2024 with David Lile as moderator
- No Excuse Absentee Reminder Card distribution @ DBRL, Farmer’s Market & Post Office
- Classroom visits and lunchtime tables at Hickman, Battle and Rockbridge High Schools
- Established Youth Voter web page with the help of Brooke Omar
- MU “Successful Adulthood” class. Education Committee members along with Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon prepared two voting videos and a list of online resources for inclusion in this class of 125 MU students in March and April 2024.

Voter Registration Venues:

- Columbia Public Library
- Hickman High School Kewpiefest 2023
- Hickman and Rock Bridge High School Homecoming Games, Oct. 6, 2023
- Douglass High School Fall Fest 2023
- Battle High School voter registration event, February 2024
- Black Business Expo @ Columbia College
- Earth Day @ Peace Park
- Derby Ridge Elementary School: Back to School Event
- Indian Hills Block Party
- Central Food Pantry
- Climate Rally
- Juneteenth Celebration @ Douglass Park
- Unity in the Community Resource Fair
- Orr Street Studios – First Friday Gallery Night
- Food Bank Market
- When She Votes Launch Event @ Boone Electric Cooperative

Member and Public Education:

Public Events and Media Appearances

- Constitution Day event on September 17, 2023 on “Disinformation and Lack of Civil Discourse: Threats to our Democracy?” With Dr. Brian Kessel (Columbia College) and Dr. Sandy Davidson (MU Professor Emerita), moderated by David Lile
- KOPN Evening Edition with Laura Wacker, one-hour discussion on January 30, 2024
- KFRU appearance on Columbia Today with Ted Farnen

Youth Voters Advisory Board—established Dec. 5, 2023

- Members asked Columbia School Board candidates questions at the March 21 Candidate Forum

- Meet regularly with Board members
- Organized voter registration at local high schools
- Student members provide advice and feedback regarding social media outreach to young voters
- Helped with LWVCBC activities on Earth Day
- YVAB created graphics to share on personal social media accounts to educate voters on April election

Lunch and Learn (Co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library)

- May 9, 2023 – “Mental Health for Golden Girls” with Vinita Khanna (Burrell Behavioral Health) and Kim Dude-Lammy (Children’s Grove)
- September 13, 2023 – “Voting in Boone County and Missouri” with Brianna Lennon (Boone County Clerk)
- October 11, 2023 – “50th Anniversary of the Sunshine Law” with Prof. Kathy Kiely (MU Journalism School)
- November 8, 2023 – “City of Columbia Solid Waste and Recycling” with Steve Hunt (Columbia Solid Waste Utility)
- December 13, 2023 – “100% Renewable Energy by 2030” with Carolyn Amparan (Sierra Club) and Mark Haim (Renew Missouri)
- January 10, 2024 – “Unhoused/Homeless in Columbia” with Catherine Armbrust (Como Mobile Aide) and Kari Utterback (Boone County Dept. of Public Health and Human Services)
- February 15, 2024 – “QAnon: From Fringe Conspiracy to Global Phenomenon” with Dr. Chris Connor (MU Sociology Dept.)
- March 13, 2024 – “The Supreme Court’s Current Term: Cases and Implications” with Prof. Rigel Oliveri (MU Law School)
- April 10, 2024 – “Update on the Current Boone County Planning Process” with Boone County Presiding Commissioner Kip Kendrick

Climate and Energy Events

- Walk for the Climate on September 10, 2023
- Joined the “100% Renewable Energy by 2030” coalition
- Encouraged LWV members to attend the Columbia City Council work session on November 20, 2023 regarding the 100% Renewable Energy policy
- Earth Day Booth on April 21, 2024

Legislative Action

- Formed a new Advocacy Team to respond to Action Alerts during the 2024 MO Legislative Session. The group kicked off the work with a meeting on January 4, 2024 and has responded to weekly LWVMO Bulletins and Calls to Action during the session.

Social and Member Events

- August 26, 2023 – Fall kickoff picnic with Nora Dietzel portraying Rep. Bella Abzug
- New Member Orientation and Welcome on October 7, 2023
- Marched in the MU Homecoming Parade on October 21, 2023
- Founders’ Day Event on December 10, 2023 with Drs. Margie Sable and Mary Beck on the topic “Reproductive Rights in the United States: 100 Years of History”
- New Member Orientation and Welcome on February 8, 2024

- New Member Orientation and Welcome on April 23, 2024

Social Media

- Intern for summer 2023 was Rachel Taylor (MU Journalism student); Intern for Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 semesters was Claire Winningham (MU Journalism student)
- Increased our social media visibility adding LWVCBC sites on Instagram and Threads, in addition to Facebook Group, Facebook Page and X.
- Produced quality posts using Canva

Coalition Partners and Events

- Columbia Public Library – LWVCBC partners with the Columbia Public Library for our Lunch and Learn events; Legislator Updates; Candidate Forums; and other events
- MO Voter Protection Coalition – several LWVCBC members attend the weekly Zoom meeting with individuals throughout Missouri to receive information on legislative issues and voter protection activities and resources
- May 2, 2023 – MO Voter Protection Rally at the MO State Capitol
- Missouri Sunshine Coalition
- Children’s Grove – co-sponsored May 2023 Lunch and Learn program for Mental Health Month
- Sponsored a table at the 2024 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on January 24, 2024
- Missourians for Constitutional Freedom – LWVCBC members participated in a kickoff to gather signatures for the initiative petition for reproductive rights on February 6, 2024
- *When She Votes* – LWVCBC joined with other organizations and individuals to promote all eligible voters to register and to vote in every election. The kickoff event for this group was held on February 24, 2024. Work continues with monthly meetings, education and cooperation.

LWVMO

- Hosted the LWVMO Convention in Columbia on May 6, 2023
- Hosted the LWVMO Fall Conference in Columbia on November 4, 2023
- Encouraged our members to watch the LWVMO sponsored program on “The Missouri Presidential Selection Process for 2024” in January 2024
- Provide our members with the weekly Legislative Bulletin and Action Alerts during the Missouri State Legislative session
- Applied for and received two Making Democracy Work minigrants: a stipend for a social media intern, and funding for voter education and registration in Columbia high schools

LWVUS

- Conducted the LWVUS Program Planning meeting on February 13, 2024 to provide LWVUS feedback from our local League and suggested adding Climate Change to the existing Making Democracy Work® Program

Awards Presented

- Outstanding Citizen Award given to Carolyn Amparan for her leadership in addressing environmental issues on December 10, 2023
- Liz Schmidt Community Service Award given to Love Columbia for their work helping to house low-income people on December 10, 2023
- Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the LWV given to Davil Lile on April 27, 2024