



The Voter

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

MARCH 17 LUNCH & LEARN: LIVE WELL BOONE COUNTY -- HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



Michelle Shikles, MPH, Public Health Promotion Supervisor, for the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services will speak on "Living Well in Boone County: Healthy Lifestyles" for our March 17 Lunch & Learn.

People who live in a healthy community grow and stay healthier. What makes a healthy community? Better access to healthy food and

opportunities for physical activity can have a big impact. A broad coalition of community agencies is working to help some of Columbia's central neighborhoods get healthier and stay healthier.

Learn about this innovative project at the Lunch 'n Learn at noon on March 17 at the Grindstone Hy-Vee community room, which is on the second floor near the entrance.

--Mahree Skala, LWV Board Member

MARCH 17 & MARCH 30: CANDIDATE/ ISSUE FORUMS FOR THE APRIL ELECTIONS



We will hold two public forums in preparation for the April 7th Election. The first comprehensive Candidate/Ballot Issue forum will be on Tuesday, March 17th. This forum will include Columbia City Council candidates for Wards 2 and 6; Columbia School Board candidates; Boone Hospital Board candidates; and Columbia city ballot issues.

On March 30th we will have the candidates for Columbia City Council Ward 1. Both forums will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia library. Coffee, tea and cookies will be available at 6:00 p.m.

KFRU will broadcast the forums live and KOPN will replay them before the April 7th Election. Mediacom will tape the forums for replay, too.

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

MARCH 11 CAT TV: INCOME INEQUALITY



Cande Iveson, Clinical Instructor, University of Missouri, will be on our Income Inequality panel for the March 11th CAT TV Show at 7 p.m. Keep an eye out for an email about the event which will name the other panel members. Income inequality is at the root of many problems in our state and country, and is now becoming a hot policy topic at state and federal levels.

The CAT TV show is broadcast on Mediacom channel 85; Charter Communications channel 983; and CenturyTel Prism channel 98. Replay on CAT TV will be 7 a.m. on Tues., Thurs. and Sat. and 7:30 p.m. on Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sun. The YouTube version will be available on our website (lwvcbc.com).

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 21



The LWV of Columbia-Boone County Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Broadway Christian Church. We will have a speaker, present the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service for the LWV, and elect

officers, board members and nominating committee members. The Church members will cater the event. The menu and price will be announced in the next issue of the Voter.

FEBRUARY BOARD REPORT

Eleven board members attended the February 23rd meeting and heard reports on these items:

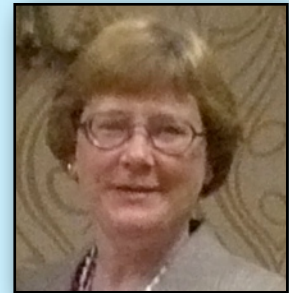
- The Annual Meeting will be on April 21st at the Broadway Christian Church, and church members will cater the event. Price and menu will be announced in the April Voter. We are still looking for a speaker for the meeting.
- The list of nominees for the Eleanor Goodge Award was announced. March 15 is the deadline for nominees. The board will vote at the February 23rd Board Meeting and the Award will be presented at our Annual Meeting.
- A contract is ready to be signed with CEC for our fundraising play on June 10. The Fundraising Committee is starting to meet. If

you are interested in serving, email Win Colwill at colwillw@gmail.com.

- Elaine Blodgett updated the board about the LWVMO State Convention which will be on May 2-3 at the Lake of the Ozarks.
- The board discussed plans for the Money in Politics consensus study for the fall.

The next board meeting will be March 23rd at Broadway Christian Church at 6:30 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

--Carol Schreiber,
Co-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 gave their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we are recognizing 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 10, 2014. For March 2015 we recognize:

- KOPN radio for re-broadcasting our forums.
- Jeannett Mott Oxford, Wiley Miller and Tracy Greever-Rice for being on our CAT TV show called Perspectives on the War on Poverty after 50 Years in April 2014

ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We look forward each year to honoring a member of the LWV CBC with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League.

This award honors exemplary service and a longterm commitment to the principles of the League. The primary service should be at the local level, but may also include service at the state and/or national level. The award may be given posthumously. It will not be given solely in recognition of one's performance in an elected or appointed League assignment.

Some previous recipients include Lorene Emerson (2009), Carolyn Leuthold (2012), Maydell Senn (2013) and Lael Von Holt (2014).

If you would like to nominate someone, please send their name and a brief description of their service activities to

Marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com by March 15, so the board can make a selection at its March meeting. The award will be presented at our Annual Meeting in April.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President

TOO MANY ROADS, TOO LITTLE FUNDING

On February 17 at our “Lunch & Learn” event, we were pleased to hear a presentation by Travis Koestner, Assistant District Engineer from the Missouri Department of Transportation, about the funding situation for our roads and bridges.

About 25 people attended, including quite a few members of the general public who had heard about the event on KFRU Radio and KOMU-TV. We all know that there is a problem with adequate funding, especially since recent ballot issues have failed and the State Legislature hasn't acted on the problem. There has been a lot of discussion about possible funding mechanisms, but there seems to be very little agreement on how to resolve the problem. It is

important that we have good information when discussing the issue.

Mr. Koestner provided a handout entitled “Missouri’s 325 System Fact Sheet” which included important background information on the challenges we face. Some facts to keep in mind:

- In 2017, MoDot’s construction funding will drop to \$325 million.
- It will take all of the \$325 million in construction funding to keep primary roads and bridges in their current condition.
- Fuel tax revenues have become a diminishing revenue stream as cars have become more fuel efficient.
- The fuel tax rate has not increased for almost 20 years, while the costs of construction and repair of the roads have increased. What was 17 cents (state fuel tax per gallon) of purchasing power back in 1992 is now only 8 cents.
- The costs of asphalt, concrete and steel are as much as 200 percent more than they were in 1992.
- In 2017, Missouri will not have enough money to match federal funds. Federal funds provide a \$4 to \$1 investment that Missouri will lose if we don’t provide the matching funds.

Mr. Koestner spoke for an hour, answering many questions from the audience. It was interesting that even among the attendees, it was apparent that there are differences of opinion on how to address the problem -- (for example, whether to have toll roads or not.)

As a state employee, Mr. Koestner could not give his personal opinion on how to resolve the problem, but he said (and the League, of course, agrees) that it is important that citizens have good information about it.

More information can be found at this link:
www.modot.org/toughchoicesahead.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President



Travis Koestner, Assistant District Engineer from the Missouri Department of Transportation. Photo courtesy of Andrew Twaddle.



Upcoming League Events!



MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 CAT TV Income Inequality 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	17 Lunch & Learn Public Health Noon - 1 p.m. HyVee Mtg Rm ----- Forum: April Election 6:30 p.m. Library	18	19	20	21
22	23 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 pm Broadway Christian Church	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Forum: April Election - First Ward Only 6:30 p.m. Library	31	APRIL 1	2 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8 CAT TV Children's Mental Health 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 LWV Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents:

Marilyn McLeod (445-3500) and
Carol Schreiber (657-1467)

1st VP: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)

Secretary: Marcia Walker
(443-8666)Treasurer: David Leuthold
(449-1358)**Elected Directors:**

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)

Joni O'Connor (234-1012)

Peggy Placier (442-2996)

Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)

Mahree Skala (474-2195)

Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

Jan Swaney (864-0435)

Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)

Dick Parker (256-4397)

Diane Suhler (443-0549)

Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth

Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod

Education: Peggy Placier

Energy Matters: Dick Parker

Fundraising: Win Colwill

Health: Jan Swaney &

Mahree Skala

Hospitality: Pam Springsteel

Membership: Liz Schmidt

Mental Health: Lael Von Holt

Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Websites:

Local: lwvcbc.org

State: lwvmissouri.org

National: lwv.org



Thanks to all who have responded to our \$95 for 95 years membership drive. We appreciate all of you who have paid the regular dues and those who have donated more.

If your label is stamped "your dues notice", you still owe for 2015. Please send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box

239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$25 for local students. Individual and household memberships also include state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____

State and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____.

I would like to receive my Voter by email _____

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)





League of Women Voters

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<http://lwvcbc.org>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS STUDY

Are our politicians being bought by a few billionaires? After the Supreme Court's "Citizen's United" decision, massive amounts of "dark money" began flowing into political action committees. In Missouri we see the influence of one billionaire and nationally we read that the Koch Brothers are going to spend nearly \$900 million and very wealthy individuals of all political persuasions are contributing millions of dollars to influence the electorate.

The LWVUS is conducting a national consensus study about Money in Politics, which is clearly a very timely topic. This fall, local Leagues across the country will study the issue. As we receive study materials, we will provide the links to information for our members. In the fall we will plan a forum, a CAT TV program and a Lunch and Learn event on this topic to educate our members and the public. Then a consensus meeting will take place prior to the February 1, 2016 deadline.

In addition to the Money in Politics study, the local Leagues will also be looking at what it involves to

change the U.S. Constitution. We will also provide materials and information on this study. Both studies were approved at the June 2014 LWVUS National Convention.

Keep reading the Voter for details!

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

