



The Voter

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

JANUARY LEARN AND SHARE: NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING



Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Columbia Public Library - Conference Room A

Do you have a suggestion that you think should be considered for national League policy?

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update or concurrence. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to

balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. ("Program issues" are basically the same as policy positions.)

Our own League took our "Department of Peace" proposal all the way to the national convention as a part of this process.

Be sure to come to this meeting on January 22nd and join in the discussion. (Or if you can't come in person, you can email your idea(s) to: lwvcbc@gmail.com)

FEEDING THE PEOPLE IS TOPIC FOR JANUARY 8 CAT TV SHOW

Feeding the People is the next topic in our on-going programs to prepare for our LWVUS Ag Study update. We will present this program on January 8th on CAT TV at 7:00 p.m. We have confirmed Adam Saunders from the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to present the local perspective. We will also have a speaker present the global perspective. Jim Robertson, managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune, will be the moderator.

CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 601. The program will be available on our website a few days after January 8th or at www.columbiaaccess.tv. The replays on CAT TV are 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY

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 11, 2013. For January we recognize:

- KOPN for re-broadcasting our forums.
- James Mouser for including the LWV in his Mediacom program.
- Paul Pepper for including the LWV in his KBIA program.
- Our panel for the CAT TV Show in February 2013: Judge Christine Carpenter and Assistant Public Defender Kim Shaw. The show was on Sentencing Reform and Alternative Courts. Judge Carpenter started the alternative courts in Boone County and is a member of the LWV.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV.

November Board Report

This is the report for the November 25th LWV Board Meeting, which took place after the December Voter went to press.

The LWVUS Ag Study status was reviewed. Local Leagues are still waiting for the consensus questions and the final background material. It may be as late as the end of January before we can proceed. We will plan a pre-consensus meeting to discuss the questions and background material as soon as we have details.

Assignments were made for Board members who will be conducting the state legislator interviews.

The board passed a Mental Health First Aid Program sponsorship at the October meeting and it was approved by the LWVMO State Board at their November meeting. Lael Von Holt and Helen Washburn updated the board and shared an application to be filled out by an interested agency or organization wanting to have mental health first-aid training for their staff. The board made some suggestions and Lael and Helen will update the board again at the January meeting.

Legislative Town Hall letters will be mailed in December to the state legislators. The date for the Town Hall is February 6, 2014 and it will be held at the Boone County Commission Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

The Board approved funding for the April election candidate/ballot issue forum(s). The date is March 18. If a second forum is needed, it will be on March 20.

The Sunshine Coalition has asked the LWV to co-sponsor a program in March in honor of Sunshine Week. We were asked to take care of logistics and help financially. The board gave approval to co-sponsor, but would like more detailed information before approving funding. Peggy Placier is the LWV Representative on the Sunshine Coalition Board and Marilyn McLeod is a LWV member of the Coalition. Liz Schmidt volunteered to work with Peggy on this project.

Co-Presidents Schreiber and McLeod have made a plan of activities for January to April of 2014 and will bring these to the board at its next meeting, January 27, at 6:45 PM at the Broadway Christian Church. Members are welcome to attend.

Carol Schreiber
Co-President



LWVMO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2014

The LWVMO has provided a list of legislative priorities for the upcoming session:

- An electoral process that is fair, accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable and uniform. The League advocates changes to the voting process which encourage citizen participation and supports the present voter identification requirements protecting the integrity of the electoral process.
- Tax policy providing financial stability and adequate funding for state services that relies on a balance of various forms of taxes and fees. Property, sales, and income taxes which increase in rate as the taxable amount

increases provide stability and equity in tax policy.

- Access to comprehensive, quality, affordable health care. The League urges the acceptance of Medicaid Expansion which will enhance the health of citizens and maintain the viability and stability of hospitals.
- Retention of the non-partisan court plan for selecting judges that is a model adopted by many other states and protects the integrity of the judicial system

(Continued on pg. 3)

Legislative Priorities (Cont'd from pg. 2)

The LWVMO will print cards for League members to hand to legislators on Legislative Priorities Day, Jan. 14. These “palm cards” will have the legislative priorities listed on one side and a statement about the League printed on the reverse side.

The statement to be printed on the cards will be: “The League of Women Voters®, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active citizen participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy

issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Members educate themselves on issues, lobby for causes for which the League has a position, and extend information to others through public forums, educational publications, coalitions, and public speaking. The League encourages communication with elected officials, and promotes citizen participation in the democratic process.”

Information provided by Elaine Blodgett, LWVMO President, and Marty Ott, LWVMO Legislative Action Chair.

Testimony Training: Tips on Giving Testimony Before a State Legislative Committee

The League encourages communication with legislators. There was an excellent workshop on “testimony training”



presented by Linda McDaniel and Kathleen Farrell (both of the St. Louis League) at the LWVMO Fall Conference in Sedalia in November. Here is some information on the subject that is useful if you might be called on to go to the Capitol in Jefferson City to testify.

There are LWVMO chairs for various subjects and they coordinate testifying at the state legislature, with approval of the state league board. The subject chair will prepare written testimony. If you are asked to testify, keep in mind the following tips:

- Inform the bill’s sponsor that you will testify. If possible, coordinate with other similar-thinking organizations.
- Have written testimony. Listen to other speakers. (If your material is the same as another speaker, then you can say the League agrees with what was previously said.)

- Arrive early.
- Always be respectful.
- Be sure to thank the committee and chair.
- Introduce your organization.
- Mention what we support or oppose. Have 2-3 points to emphasize.
- If you have a personal story that adds to the testimony, include that story.
- Remember that we are there to help them
- If you can’t answer a question, it is okay to say “I don’t know the answer to that but I can find out and send the information...”
- Speak from the heart.
- Be prepared for questions. It is okay to have additional information available aside from official testimony.
- Provide copies of the written testimony to the committee members, the press and for the record.
- Be an example of reasoned discourse.
- Remember that we are participants in the process.
- Write a thank you to the committee chair and members at the legislature for listening.
- Be sure to let the League chair know about your experience.

Marilyn McLeod
Co-President



Upcoming League Events!



January 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 CAT TV 7PM Ag Issues	9	10	11
12	13 Voter Service Committee Library Rm B 6:30PM	14 LWVMO Legislative Priorities Day State Capital	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Learn & Share: LWVUS Positions Library Rm A	23	24	25
26	27 Board MTG, 6:45 PM Broadway Christian Church	28 Paul Pepper 8:50AM KBIA	29	30	31	1 February
2	3	4	5	6 Legislative Town Hall Boone County Commission Chambers 7PM	7	8
9	10	11	12 CAT TV 7PM 3-D Printing	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Board MTG, 6:45 PM Broadway Christian Church	25	26 Learn & Share: Ag Study Consensus	27	28	

Contact Information

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: Susie Liu (442-0313)

LWV Board Members:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
 Sue Breyfogle (474-7977)
 Holly Burgess (449-0625)
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
 Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)
 Peggy Placier (442-2996)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

LWV Committee Chairs:

Civil Liberties:
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
 Education: Peggy Placier
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Health: Jan Swaney (442-3172)
 Membership: Liz Schmidt
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber
 Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held on the
 4th Monday of the month. All
 members are welcome to attend.



Membership Application

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2014 it is time to do so! Please send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. Thanks to all LWV members for renewing your membership promptly!

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 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.)

Websites:

Local: lwvcbc.org
 State: lwvmissouri.org
 National: lwv.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION





League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

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Permit No. 122

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL FEBRUARY 6



The 2014 LWV Legislative Town Hall will be held at 7PM, February 6, in the Boone County Commission Chambers.

***LOOK INSIDE FOR A COMPLETE CALENDAR
OF UPCOMING EVENTS ON PG 6***