



The Voter

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

2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOVEMBER 1

OCTOBER 7 NEW MEMBER WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

Please join us for this month's New Member Welcome and Orientation on October 7 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255901401?pwd=MVdubEk4Z21nY0lrZzNlcUwTU1ldz09>

Learn about how your membership supports actions at all three levels of LWV to register and educate voters, monitor legislation, and take action on important public policy issues.

— Meredith Donaldson, Chair
Membership Committee

OCTOBER 11 LUNCH & LEARN: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI SUNSHINE LAW

For the first time in several years, Lunch & Learn will meet on October 11 at noon in the Friends Room of the Columbia Public Library (Zoom option is also available; register at <https://events.dbrl.org/event/9020824>).

Kathy Kiely, the Lee Hills Chair in Free Press Studies at the Missouri School of Journalism, will speak about the "50th Anniversary of the Missouri Sunshine Law, a Cornerstone of Democracy." Learn about the bipartisan origins of our Freedom of Information Act (aka Sunshine Law), how it is used to keep the public informed about government actions, and potential changes that could dilute the law. This event is the annual Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum

co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library and the American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Columbia Branch.

The November 8 Lunch & Learn program, also in the Friends' Room and via Zoom, will feature Steve Hunt, Manager of the City of Columbia's Solid Waste Utility, talking about solid waste and recycling.

If you missed a Lunch & Learn, previous programs can be found at lwvcbc.org, or dbrl.org.

— Mahree Skala, President
LWVCBC

OCTOBER 21 — COME PARTICIPATE IN THE MU HOMECOMING PARADE!!

Let people know about LWVCBC while having fun at a festive event. We'll have a shiny red historic truck with room for a few riders. Two walkers will lead, holding the LWVCBC banner, and many others will follow behind with creative signs about issues we care about. The parade usually starts around 9:00 a.m., depending on

the football game schedule. Participants will need to come earlier. Please contact Barbara Hoppe at yesforparks@hotmail.com if you can join us for the parade. More details about time and place will be shared as they become available.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With school in full swing (and my high school reunion in progress), I'm once again reminded how important it is to educate young people about voting. At the excellent Constitution Day program on September 21, we were fortunate to hear from a number of Columbia College students about how they choose and navigate online information and attempt to distinguish fact from fiction. We hope some of them will join LWV and help us reach out to other young potential voters. For more about this event please see page 5.

Although older people are much more likely to vote than younger people, a recent study showed that when young people are registered, they turn out at high rates, especially in Presidential elections, midterms, and other races where they know what is at stake. According to Census Bureau data, in 2020, a full 86% of registered youth aged 18-24 turned out to vote. And the numbers are similar for presidential elections going back to 2004.

In this context, the League is playing a crucial role in engaging and registering voters in the Columbia public high schools and planning for a more active role on our local college campuses. If you have ideas or contacts in the higher education world who might help, please let me know.

LWV calendar highlights include the October 11 Lunch & Learn program about the 50th Anniversary of the Missouri Sunshine Law and the MU Homecoming Parade on October 21.

We also have the opportunity to honor deserving individuals and groups who have made a difference in the lives of Boone Countians by nominating them for the LWVCBC annual awards. The deadline for nominations is October 13; for more information, see page 8. Finally, the Missouri LWV Fall Conference will be right here in Columbia on November 4.

Read more about all these events and opportunities in this issue—and plan to participate. Remember, no one can do everything that's needed, but everyone can do something!

— Mahree Skala
President, LWVCBC
skalamahree@yahoo.com



NOVEMBER 4 — FALL LWV OF MISSOURI CONFERENCE

The LWV of Missouri will hold its annual Fall Conference in Columbia on Saturday, November 4, at the Boone Electric Cooperative's new building on Rangeline Street. The theme for this year's hybrid conference is "Information Express: The Train to '24."

The preliminary schedule includes:

- "Democracy in Danger" presented by Mizzou Journalism Professor Kathy Kiely.
- "Disinformation/Misinformation" presented by Jennifer Slavik Lohman.
- A session about Engaging Young Voters.
- An ERA Update from Susan Koenig.

- Presentations about anticipated 2024 Ballot Measures, including Minimum Wage/Paid Leave and Reproductive Rights (depending on court case outcome).
- Information on how to be a petition carrier.

The cost is \$30 for in-person registration, which includes lunch, and \$10 for online registration. For more information, or if you would like to attend but need help with the cost, email marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com.

— Marilyn McLeod, President
LWVMO

WELCOMING YOUNG VOTERS!!

Zainab Jasim (right and below right) and Linda Headrick (below left) registered high school students to vote and shared important voting information at Battle High School on September 15.



"So the next time someone tells you that young people don't turn out, please stop them and help them understand: Turnout is a function of two separate processes. Registration and casting a ballot. If we forget the first, we're not going to be able to meaningfully address the latter."

— Laura Brill



**DECEMBER 10 — MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
LWVCBC WILL CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S DAY
ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 10
WITH A SOCIAL GATHERING AND AWARDS PRESENTATION**



Left to right, Elaine Blodgett, Sharon Schneeberger and Sharmini Rogers register voters at the Columbia Public Library on National Voter Registration Day. Photo by Suzanne Stilwell.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

We have a new intern, Claire Winningham, who has already created several posts for the League. Our goal is to educate and inform League members and Boone County citizens. There are so many issues and events we want to promote to the public we struggle to keep up.

Here are a few topics we have created content about and posted on all our social media platforms in the last two weeks: Disability Voting Rights, Lunch and Learn with Brianna Lennon, National Voter Registration Day, Constitution Day, and Voter Registration at the Battle, Hickman, and Rockbridge homecoming games.

In our effort to reach Boone County citizens, you can help by liking every one of our posts you see on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram and sharing them with your family and friends. If you feel there is something we should promote, please let one of the committee members know. The committee includes Linda Headrick, Peggy Placier, Carol Schreiber, and Sharon Schneeberger.

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair
Social Media Committee

CONSTITUTION DAY EVENT 2023



The LWVCBC celebrated Constitution Day on September 21 with a program held at the Boone County Family Resources Building. Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association co-sponsored the event. Speakers Sandy Davidson, J.D., Ph.D. Professor Emerita, MU, Communication Law, and Brian Kessel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, Columbia College addressed the topic "Disinformation and Lack of Civil Discourse: Threats to Democracy?" The moderator was David Lile.

The program was recorded and can be viewed on youtube at <https://youtu.be/ujuShk7Ltb8?si=LTITpWEGopR9go-O>. A link to the recording can also be found at our website, lwvcbc.org, along with the handouts from the program and Professor Kessel's slides.

— Pam Springsteel, Chair
Civil Liberties Committee





Upcoming League Events!



OCTOBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 1	2 Social Media Committee 3:30 pm	3	4 Education Committee 5pm Library	5	6 Voter Registration Hickman and Rock Bridge High Schools	7 New Member Welcome 10am Zoom
8	9 Social Media Committee 3:30 pm	10	11 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am Lunch & Learn MO Sunshine Law Noon Library and Zoom	12	13	14
15	16 Social Media Committee 3:30 pm LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	17	18	19	20	21 LWVCBC marches in MU Homecoming Parade
22	23 Social Media Committee 3:30 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Social Media Committee 3:30 pm	31	Nov 1	2	3	4 LWVMO Fall Conference Columbia
5	6	7	8 Lunch & Learn Solid Waste & Recycling in Columbia Noon Library and Zoom	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LWV Officers:

President: Mahree Skala
(474-2195)
1st VP: Susie Adams
2nd VP: Sharon Schneeberger
(443-4605)
Secretary: Carol Schreiber
(657-0639)
Treasurer: Mary Hayden

Elected Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)
Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
Linda Headrick
Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)
Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)
Ruth Milledge
Rene Powell (864-4087)
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
Diane Suhler (443-0549)

Appointed Director:

Zainab Jasim

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Open
Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel
Education: Susie Adams & Zainab
Jasim, Co-chairs
Energy & Climate: Barbara Hoppe
& Sharon Schneeberger, Co-chairs
ERA: Susan Koenig
Fundraising: Open
Health: Mahree Skala
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Luella Committee: Pam Springsteel
Lunch & Learn: Barbara Hoppe
Membership: Meredith Donaldson
Mental Health: Mahree Skala
Social Media: Sharon Schneeberger
Speakers Bureau: Open
Voter Registration: Linda Smith
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

The Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwvcbc.org
State: lwvmisouri.org
National: lwv.org

Like us on Facebook: "League of
Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

MEMBER NEWS**Welcome to New Members:**

Cynthia Campbell, Katherine Owens (from Russellville, just
outside of Jeff City), and Jacob Schelp.

In Memoriam:

Longtime members Ann Edwards and Joan Eisenstark
have recently passed.

We have 223 Total Current Members

2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County****COME AND JOIN US!**

Simply fill out the form and mail to the address below

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____

Email _____

First Time Member _____ Renewal _____

Membership dues include local, state and national
membership.

Individual Dues \$65 _____

Household Dues \$100 _____

New member 30 years of age and under. \$30 _____

Student Dues (Ages 16 to 25; Enrolled FT/PT) \$FREE _____

Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income) \$25 _____

Donation to subsidize dues for \$ _____

members who cannot afford membership rates.

General Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to LWV and mail to:

League of Women Voters
PO Box 239
Columbia, MO 65205

Newsletters are sent via email. If you need a paper copy,
please check here _____

**Donation to LWVCBC Education Fund \$ _____

**Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible. Please
include a separate check payable to LWVEF-MO704



OCTOBER 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD AND THE OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD

The LWVCBC annually presents the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award and/or the Outstanding Citizen Award. The Schmidt Award honors our long-time member and amazing volunteer, Liz Schmidt. It goes to a deserving individual or group making a difference in the lives of Columbia-Boone County. If you have a nomination, please specify which award it is for; provide a description of the work done by the organization or individual and why you think they should receive this award; and include your contact information. Nominations are due by Friday, October 13. Please send to lwvcbc@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. The award(s) will be presented at the Founders Day program on December 10.

Some of the recent recipients of the Community Service Award include the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition (2018), Voluntary Action Center (2019), Team Boone and Boone County Clerk's Office (2020), Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri (2021), and City of Refuge (2022).

The Outstanding Citizen Award was previously presented to Wendy Noren (2017), Steve Hollis (2019), Stephanie Browning and Scott Clardy of



Liz Schmidt, 1929 - 2016

the Columbia/Boone County Health Department (2020), Ruth O'Neill of the Catholic Worker Community and Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen (2021), and Mel and Barbara West (2022).

— Carol Schreiber
Secretary