LWY

THE VOTER

VOLUME 78, No. 5
MAY, 2013

Learn & Share—ALEC

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) was described by Georgia State Senator Chip Rogers, a member of ALEC, as "perfectly positioned to be the preeminent legislative force in the country." What is ALEC? It is an organization funded mainly by corporations and foundations which also includes some 2,000 state legislators and which drafts model legislation to promote the interests of these same corporations. Many Missouri legislators are members of ALEC, currently including a number of the legislative leaders.

Want to learn more? Come to one of the Learn and Share meetings this month led by members of the Civil Liberties Committee. One is Wednesday evening, May 22, 7:00 p.m., at Aline Kultgen's, 1012 Hickory Hill. The second session is Thursday afternoon, 1:30 p.m., on May 23. This session will be held at Win Colwill's, 1417 Countryshire Dr. (go to the Midway exit, turn right on the east-bound access road to Countryshire.

Medicaid and Health Care in Missouri

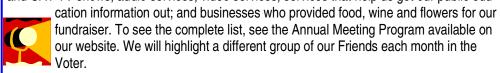
Medicaid and health care generally has been prominent in public discussions this spring. Ryan Barker, Vice President for Health Policy, Missouri Foundation for Health, will speak to the implications of the Legislature's decision on Medicaid Expansion and there will also be a presentation on current issues in health care in Missouri. The program is cosponsored by the League's Health Committee and the Columbia Public Library.

Come and learn more about these issues and get answers to your questions from the experts.

Thursday, May 23, 7:00 p.m. Friends Room, Columbia Public Library (Refreshments available at 6:30 p.m.)

Friends of the League

At our annual meeting, our members voted to recognize businesses and individuals who have given their time, talent or treasure to the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County. There were 21 businesses and 40 individuals recognized. These included participants in our public affairs CAT TV shows; forum speakers; moderators at our forums and CAT TV shows; audio services; video services; services that help us get our public edu-



This month we would like to highlight the businesses which contributed food, wine and flowers to our June 2012 Fundraiser CEC's Play "The Drowsy Chaperone": Bleu Restaurant, Broadway Brewery, House of Chow Restaurant, Ingredient Restaurant, Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, Room 38 Restaurant, Rome Restaurant, Sycamore Restaurant, World Harvest, Les Bourgeois Winery, and Patricia's IGA Floral Department.

Thanks for your contributions to the LWV; you are our Friend!

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

<u>May</u>

- LWVMO Convention, Sat./ Sun., May 4-5, Capital Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City
- League Presents-Immigration, CAT-TV, Wed., May 8, 7 pm
- Civil Liberties Com. Mtg.
 Thurs., May 9 , 1:15 pm, Library
- Board Mtg., Mon., May 13, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric
- Education Com. Mtg., Mon., May 20, 6:30 pm, Library
- Learn & Share: ALEC, Wed., May 22, 7 pm, 1012 Hickory
 Hill
- Learn & Share: ALEC, Thurs., May 23, 1:30 pm, 1417 N. Countryshire Dr. (Win Colwill's)
- Forum: Medicaid & Health Care in Missouri, Thurs., May 23, 7 pm, Library

June

- Board Mtg., Mon., June 10, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric (may be rescheduled)
- Civil Liberties Com. Mtg. Thurs., June 13, 1:15 pm, Library
- Education Com., Mtg. Mon., June 17, 6:30 pm, Library

Fact Checking
Want to check the accuracy of
allegations or emails? Go to ...
www.politifact.com or
www.factcheck.org
Www.flackcheck.org

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April Board Report

We welcome our new board members for 2012-2013: Susie Liu, Sue Breyfogle, Carla Klein and Shirley Troth (she is filling out Maydell Senn's term). Our first board meeting will be on Monday, May 13th at 6:45 p.m. at Boone Electric Cooperative. Social time is at 6:30 p.m.

All officers, board members and nominating committee members nominated were elected at our annual meeting. We also voted to recognize a large group of businesses and individuals to be Friends of the LWV. We will be highlighting these Friends each month for the next 11 months in the Voter, so please see that section in this month's Voter. Our Annual Meeting Program is now available on our website and an entire list of the Friends of the LWV is included in that program.

In June or July we will have a board planning meeting. At this meeting we will plan our forums, Learn and Share topics, plan for the LWVUS Ag Study and other projects. If you have ideas, please let me know. Should we be doing more voter registration? Should we be sponsoring students to attend Boys and Girls State? Should we be observers at public meetings? We are willing to do more, but we need more hands and help to do these things, so also consider what you can do.

Carol Schreiber Co-President

Education Fund has Unexpected Boost!

Jane Bierdeman-Fike from Callaway County remembered the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County in her will. We received \$7,142.86, which has been deposited in our Education Fund held by LWVMO. In addition, we will be in-

cluded in the sale of real estate property and so will be receiving a final payment from this estate in the future. This was a big surprise to us, as none of us remember her as a member of our League. One of our board members, Lael Von Holt, knew Ms. Bierdeman-Fike well. Here is Lael's tribute:

Jane Bierdeman-Fike died at the age of 89 just one year ago, after many years of professional service and leadership in the arena of mental health, graduate education and social justice. She was recognized on both state and national levels as one of the most influential social workers in Missouri and the United States.

Jane - as she was called by most - served for many years as Director of Social Service at Fulton State Hospital, Callaway County. After my graduate education at MU, she offered me my first professional assignment in the traveling mental health clinics program, under auspice of the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

About ten years or so ago - perhaps twenty years ago - she came to Columbia, at my request, to talk to a few Leaguers interested in the complex arena of mental health.

Jane was the recipient of abundant recognition, and received many prestigious awards such as Honorary Doctorate, Lifetime Achievement in Mental Health, and Lasting Legacy. Even in her retirement, she remained the consummate professional. Her passing last year was indeed a very sad time for the profession and for those of us who knew her. This grand lady touched the lives of so many. Her generosity has certainly touched our lives in the League of Women Voters.

Her gift to our Education Fund is great news!



2013 Goodge Award winner Maydell Senn with Co-Presidents Carol Schreiber and Marilyn McLeod

Welcome to our newest members!

P.J. Wilson, 4006 Deerfield Dr., 65202 <u>picleanenergy@gmail.com</u> 417-459-7468

Sharon Ford Schattgen, 2200 Topaz Dr, 65203 <u>sfschattgen@aol.com</u> 445-1793

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Mental Health Month

The month of May is an excellent time to recognize the importance of mental health and to review any progress. At the top of our list must be the increased awareness of many complex issues.

Locally, the voters last fall certainly showed increased awareness when they passed a 1/4 cent sales tax for a Children's Service Fund, to accommodate the unmet needs of children's health and mental health in Boone County. A newly appointed Board of Directors to administer this fund has just been selected. They will meet for the first time on April 30th.

On state level, we can recognize the Governor for his recommendation of ten million more dollars for the mental health services budget. On national level, we can recognize the President for recommending one hundred million dollars for research on mental health, especially for brain research.

Scientists nationally and internationally are advancing research for other aspects of mental health such as the genome project which shows shared markers for five of the mental illnesses; lab research showing specific blood markers for major depression; and brain research identifying distinct brain patterns for children with autism. We are fortunate here in Columbia to have the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders involved in some of this research, as well as in evaluation and treatment.

The Missouri Department of Mental Health with its program of Mental Health First Aid and the national Mental Health Parity Act are all significant advances. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is active locally and statewide, taking a major leadership role in raising awareness and in advocacy and education.

Mental health legislation in Jefferson City also takes a major role. For example, SB226 (Schaefer) modifies standards under RSMo, Chapter 632 for determining when a person is in need of mental health detention and evaluation. SB226 passed in the Senate on April 18th. It moves on to the House for consideration. Nationally, we can note S.264 (Stabenow, Blunt) for the bipartisan Excellence in Mental Health Act to improve mental health services for those in low income. S.264 is intended as an amendment to gun violence legislation, currently in the Senate.

For all these positives and encouraging signs, there are also concerns, and we know them well: lack of sufficient budgeting and lack of psychiatric bed space; closure of Charter Hospital and Boone Hospital's in-patient unit; continuing stigma of mental illness; increase in prevalence of autism; disbanding of the Boone County Mental Health Board of Trustees; and increased killings across the country, associated with guns, violent videos and mental illness.

May is Mental Health Month, an excellent time for the League of Women Voters to again recognize mental health as an essential component of overall health, and to review some these advances and concerns. . Some suggestions.....

- Check out SB226, for interest.
- Follow the League's coverage of Medicaid Expansion in the Legislative Bulletin. Mental health is among the benefits.
- Consider serving as League Observer of the new Children's Service Fund. Contact Carol Schreiber or Marilyn McLeod, if interested.

Lael Von Holt

Boone County Children's Service Fund

On November 6, 2012, the voters passed a 1/4 cent county sales tax initiative to fund children's programs and services in Boone County, including prevention and treatment of mental health problems, for ages 19 and younger.

Known as the Boone County Children's Service Fund, it will be administered by a nine member Board of Directors. The 28 applicants for this inaugural board were considered to be highly qualified, and those not selected were encouraged to re-apply in the future. The Boone County Commission has appointed the following board members:

One year term: Nancy McKerrow, Dewey Riehn, and Suzette Forbis.

Two year term: Bruce Horwitz, Kathy Thornburg, and Jennifer Walker.

Three year term: Les Wagner, Michele Kennett, and Gregory Grupe.

Dates of interest: <u>First board meeting</u>: Tuesday, April 30th, 5:30 pm, Boone County Government Building, likely in the Commission Chambers. <u>Board Open House</u>: Tuesday, May 7th, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Boone County Government Building, Commission Chambers. This Open House is in honor of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

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Charter Schools in Missouri: Part I

This year the Education Committee decided to explore a small set of related topics: charter schools in Missouri; small autonomous schools in Columbia; and the full spectrum of K-12 educational offerings currently available in Columbia. We will share what we are learning in a short series of articles. This article gives an overview of Missouri charter schools and recent related legislation. A second article will examine popular movies such as "The Lottery" and "Waiting for Superman" and other media portrayals of charter education. A third will take a look at who is being served and the quality of education currently being provided in Missouri's charter schools.

What is a Charter School? A charter school is an independent public school; it receives public money but operates autonomously from the local district. A basic concept behind the charter movement is that the charter school has a great deal of flexibility as to how it operates but that it is expected to produce certain outcomes, which are outlined in the school's charter.

Since Minnesota created the first charter schools in 1991, forty-two states have passed charter legislation. As would be expected, charter policies differ widely across the states. Missouri passed charter legislation in 1998. Until 2012, Missouri allowed



charter schools only in Kansas City and St. Louis; this policy targeting the two cities evolved as a response to the concurrent loss of desegregation funding in those cities. As of 2012, over 20,000 Missouri students were enrolled in 54 charter schools; in that year 32% of Kansas City students and 26% of St. Louis students attended charter schools. In Kansas City, especially, this represented another significant loss of students from a public school system that has halved in size since the 1980s. Charter advocates intended this threat of losing students to motivate public schools to improve

Until 2012, Missouri charters could be sponsored by either the school district or by an institution of higher education; most charters were sponsored by colleges and universities. This made Missouri quite different from most states, where charters are typically authorized by and accountable to the local school district. But in Missouri charters were viewed as partners with their sponsoring colleges and universities, and the state's charter legislation did not require sponsors to hold schools accountable to their charters or to monitor their academic and financial health.

The term "sponsor" can cause confusion and is bit of a misnomer. A sponsor is the entity that authorizes the charter school and to whom the school is accountable for achieving the terms set out in its charter. While the term might seem to imply a relationship in which the sponsor provides funding to the school, this is not the case; in fact, since 2006, sponsoring institutions receive state funding to compensate them for serving as sponsors.

2012 Revisions to Missouri Charter School Legislation: Over time, concerns arose about the quality of education and lack of academic, fiscal and ethical accountability in Missouri's charter schools. In 2012, Missouri's Board of Education closed six St. Louis charter schools that were managed by Imagine Schools – the largest US for-profit charter network - and sponsored by Missouri Baptist University, as a result of years of poor performance and questionable financial activities. At the same time, other parties wanted to see charter schools as an option that would be available in all Missouri school districts. These two issues gained momentum and resulted in 2012's successful Senate Bill 576, which replaced the previous related statute. The new law both expands the locations where charter schools can be created and institutes stricter accountability provisions.

Charter Schools Now Allowed Across the State: Charter schools now can be located in any district in the state as long as the sponsor is either the school district or a new governor-appointed Missouri Charter Public School Commission (MCPSC). Thus, under the new law, a charter school could now be created in Columbia, but only if it was sponsored by the school district or by the MCPSC. It is not expected that charters will quickly spread across the state. Accredited rural and suburban districts are unlikely to sponsor charter schools because they won't want to have to share their state and federal education dollars in order to fund them. And it seems unlikely that the MCPSC will be a big player in this arena in the immediate future, as it currently has no funding or staff.

But different guidelines apply in school districts that are unaccredited or provisionally accredited. In districts that have been declared unaccredited or have been provisionally accredited for three consecutive years charter schools can be sponsored by other Missouri-based entities in addition to local school boards and the MCPSC. Possible sponsoring entities in this case include: public colleges or universities; community colleges in the same service area; private colleges or universities with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved teacher training programs; and accredited private two-year vocational-technical schools. Missouri currently has three unaccredited districts – St. Louis, Riverview, and Kansas City – and nine provisionally accredited districts.

Finally, Missouri law now allows large employers to operate workplace charters for the children of employees.

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Learning about City Manager Form of Government

The historical records of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters are at the State Historical Society of Missouri located in the Ellis Library building (University of Missouri-Columbia). The records consist of official Minutes, newspaper articles, scrapbooks and other papers. These records are considered a permanent collection of the Historical Society and cannot be removed from that location but they can be viewed there and copies can be made. We express our appreciation for the availability of the collection and the very helpful assistance of their staff.

The new leadership of the League appeared to be very ambitious and very organized. And they were eager to learn, as League members still are. Before their first meeting in September 1925 for the 1925-26 year, a study topic was assigned for each monthly meeting. It is obvious from the range of topics that the members of the League were now engaged in learning about many and diverse subjects.

The proposed topics included the Movement toward Church Unification; the Legal Status of Women; the Form of County Government; Living Costs; The County and Administration of Local Law; the World Court as it Functions Today; World Education for International Friendliness; County Finance-Budgets and Accounting; and Our Illiterate Country, to name a few.

Interest in how city government was conducted was the subject of their October 1925 meeting and the meeting was reported in the local newspaper. The guest speaker was Professor Thomas S. Barclay, assistant professor of political science at the University of Missouri. He addressed the topic of having a city manager position in city government, which he noted was a form of government that had started about ten years before in Ohio and was spreading from there. Barclay noted that it was not a "radical scheme" nor was it really new as it had actually been a common form of government before the Revolutionary War.

The purpose of this type of government was to eliminate the role of partisan politics in the administration of the city. Barclay likened it to a superintendent of schools. "He is hired by a board of directors to run the school and the city manager is hired to run the administrative affairs of the city... (he) is not a politician. He is a man trained to run the affairs of the city...elected by a city council...who are elected from a non-partisan ticket by the voters of the city. ...If he is not satisfactory, the council has the right to discharge him. If the council becomes corrupt, then it is the business of the people to elect a new council. Herein lies the democracy of the plan: namely, that the people elect a city council which in turns elects the city manager." Interestingly, Barclay added that practically all city managers are men of the engineering profession and therefore understands matters of construction and city building. (Question: has there ever been a female city manager in Columbia?)

Professor Barclay's proposal that there be no aldermen or wards, but rather, anyone could run for city council and at the primary election all qualified voters would vote for any five candidates. The ten highest are put up at the general election and the five receiving the highest number of votes at that election would make up the city council. He added that they would serve without pay.

Note that at this time, in Columbia there was already a Mayor and City Council Wards.

Professor Barclay answered questions asked by the members of the League at the meeting, and it was noted that "much interest in favor of the plan was shown." It is logical to believe that League members would support a non-partisan city manager for the City of Columbia.

It took awhile for this idea to finally take hold: the city-manager form of government was finally established in 1949 in Columbia.

Marilyn McLeod Historian



In April, the City of Columbia awarded former League President **Jo Sapp** the fifth annual Howard B. Lang Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Pictured are League Co-Presidents Carol Schreiber and Marilyn McLeod, David Sapp (who accepted the award for his wife) and Leslie and Michael Sapp.

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Charter Schools in Missouri: Part I continued

New Accountability Standards for Charters: Under the old law, sponsors had almost no responsibilities. This problem was a significant one, as the key underpinning of the charter school concept is that operational autonomy of the school is balanced by its accountability for student achievement. The charter is held accountable to its sponsor to produce the academic outcomes specified in its charter. The accountability of charter schools depends on the authorizing state legislation and Missouri's old law was quite lax. In contrast, the 2012 Missouri law requires accountability for sponsors and schools related to application materials and review of applications; annual reports; processes for approval, reporting and revocation of charters; due process for applicants who are denied or revoked by sponsors; fiscal accounting and reporting; legal compliance and conflict of interest; student achievement on state standards and assessments; and teacher qualifications.

Concerns remain as to how accountability provisions will be enforced. Missouri does not have a state-level agency or department tasked with monitoring this process. Other states are also struggling with the issue of not having the capacity to carefully monitor the authorization process of new charter schools and the academic and fiscal compliance of existing schools. This is a serious problem because children attending an inadequate charter school lose significant learning time while the process drags on..

Note: In a 2007 state-level LWV study on the topic, the seven participating Missouri local leagues could not achieve consensus on whether to support the concept of charter schools; they did agree, however, that accountability requirements should be increased and that charter schools should not be expanded beyond St. Louis and Kansas City.

Resources:

- Missouri's Revised Statutes, Chapter 160, Sections 400 to 425, available online at http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/ C160.HTM
- KCPT TV's excellent Sept 1, 2011 program on Kansas City charter schools, available online at (http://youtu.be/wfy5ipcU6RI)
- Oct 28, 2012 presentation "Charter Schools in Missouri" to our Education Committee by Dr. Deborah Carter, Director of MU Charter School Operations at the MU College of Education
- Associated Press "House OKs charter school expansion" Columbia Daily Tribune, May 16, 2012
- Crouch, Elisa Missouri calls it quits on Imagine charter schools in St. Louis, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, April 18, 2012.

Ava Fajen and Peggy Placier

A Success!

We held our annual fundraiser on Wednesday, April 17th, our cooperative event with the Columbia Entertainment Company. This year, they performed the play "9 to 5", which was a perfect fit with the fact that we had observed Pay Equity Day that morning in Jefferson City.

For those of you who attended, you will remember that it was a dark and stormy night, literally! About 45 minutes before our gathering was to begin, the city tornado sirens sounded, and about 20 minutes later, just when we thought there was an all clear, hail began to fall. Would people come out to attend this event? The answer was a surprising – and resounding

- yes! Amazingly, the rain held off as people arrived and although it stormed during the show, the rain held off again as people left at the end. We had one of the largest audiences ever! Our League members are a brave and noble group!

We raised over \$2500 at this very successful event -- probably the highest amount we have ever received for such an event! Thanks to all the underwriters: Bill and Kathryn Allen, Wayne and Rachel Brekhus, Jack and Win Colwill, Leigh Huesgen, Margaret Joseph, Carla Klein, Elda Kurzejeski, Marilyn McLeod, Joan and Steve Mudrick, John and Joni O'Connor, Liz Schmidt, Carol Schreiber, Mike and Sarah Seat, Betsey Winnacker, Sharon Schattgen and Joan Watson.

Thanks to Bleu Restaurant and Wine Bar, Broadway Brewery, Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, Room 38 Restaurant & Lounge, and Sycamore for the wonderful food they provided for us, along with great food provided by members of the League. Be sure to thank these local restaurants for their support! We also should thank Les Bourgeois Winery for their support for wine, and the Columbia Art League for their loan of wine glasses.

The people who won the door prizes were: Whitney Hicks and Linda Kaiser, each winning two tickets for future performances of their choice of the CEC; and Joan Wilson, a flower arrangement in memory of Lorene Emmerson.

And, of course, our gratitude to the Fundraising Committee for all their work to make this a success: Joni O'Connor (chair), Pam Springsteel, Win Colwill, Liz Schmidt, and Sarah Seat.

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Officers

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

1st Vice President: Liz Schmidt

(445-0655)

2nd Vice President: Ava Fajen (442-

0803)

Secretary: Sue Breyfogle (474-7977) **Treasurer:** Susie Liu (442-0313)

Board Members & Committee Chairs

CAT TV: Carol Schreiber
Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser &
Aline Kultgen (449-2149)
Communications: Discussion
Groups/Unit Meetings:

Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)

Education: Ava Fajen (above)

Energy Matters: Carla Klein (417-631

9633) & Dick Parker (below) **Health:** Linda Kaiser (below) & Jan

Swaney (442-3172)

Historian: Marilyn McLeod Hospitality: Pam Springsteel

(445-0642)

Membership: Linda Lenau Brown (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt

Mental Health: Lael Von Holt

(443-7747)

Nominating: Linda Brown (above)
Other: Carla Klein (417-631-9633)
Diane Suhler (443-0549)
Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Peace: Dick Parker (256-4397)

Sunshine Coalition Liaison: Peggy Placier (442-2996)

Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor & Linda Kaiser (474-1407) Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Web & Social Media: Rachel Brekhus

(875-4295)

Meetings

Board: 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm,

Boone Electric Cooperative Civil Liberties: 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm* Education: 3rd Mon., 6:30 pm* Energy Matters: Varies Fundraising: Varies

Health: 3rd or 4th Wed., 7 pm*

Peace: Varies

Voter Service: Varies*

*Meetings at Library

Membership

If you have an "13" after your name, your membership is current. Our membership year runs January 1-December 31 (and a "12") means you haven't yet paid for this year).

To join the League or renew your membership, 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.

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.

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.

Would you like to see the <u>Voter</u> in color? Save the League printing and mailing costs? You can now get the <u>Voter</u> 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 the email address you would like used.

Websites of Interest

Iwvcbc.org (local) Iwvmissouri.org (state) Iwv.org (national)

www.covermissouri.org (Missouri Foundation for Health)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia - Boone County MO

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May, 2013								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
			1	2	3 LWVMO Board Mtg.	4 LWVMO Convention, Jefferson City		
5 LWVMO Con- vention, Jeffer- son City	6	7	8 League Presents on CAT-TV, 7 pm	9 Civil Lib. Com., 1:15 pm, Library	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20 Education Com., 6:30 pm, Library A	21	22 Learn & Share: ALEC, 7 pm, 1012 Hickory Hill	23 Learn & Share: ALEC, 1:30 pm, 1417 N. Countryshire Dr. Medicaid /Health Policy Forum, 7 pm, Library	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1		
June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8		