



The Voter

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

MAY 11 CAT TV: WILL COLUMBIA MEET ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD?



Columbia's renewable energy status, sustainability and power production will be discussed at the May 11 CAT TV show.

We will have panel members from Columbia's Water and Light Department and Jim Robertson, Managing Editor of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, will moderate the show.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on May 11. The program will be available on our website or at www.columbiaaccess.tv. The show replays on CAT TV at 7:00 a.m. on Tues, Thurs and Sat and 7:30 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun. CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.

— Carol Schreiber

MAY 17 LUNCH & LEARN: RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



The May 17 Lunch & Learn program will feature Tim Harlan, JD, of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Dr. Aaron Thompson of the MU School of Social Work.

Our distinguished speakers have been honored for outstanding leadership and promotion of mental health awareness, education and services in our community. Of particular interest in this field are the services of the National Alliance on Mental

Illness (NAMI), the MU Family Access Center (FACE), and the Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition (BCSMHC).

Lunch & Learn programs are held from noon to 1:00 at the Hy-Vee at Providence and Nifong. Bring your lunch or buy lunch in the deli and then come to the upstairs meeting room.

— Lael Von Holt

GET READY FOR THE MUSIC MAN ON JUNE 8!



Break out your old band instruments – oh, wait! – better still, plan to attend our annual fundraiser with this year's featured show: "The Music Man". No need to practice your instrument. We make it easy. Just purchase tickets for the League's fundraiser play this year on Wednesday, June 8, presented by the Columbia Entertainment Company.



With books, music and lyrics by Meredith Wilson, this award-winning play features con man Harold Hill who comes to River City, Iowa to pitch his fake marching band system but falls in love with the

town librarian. The Broadway show opened in 1957 and was a hit, winning 5 Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

As in past years, the play will start at 7:30, but before the performance, we will start the evening at 6:30 p.m. with a great selection of appetizers, provided by local restaurants and members, and wine from local wineries to enjoy.

Tickets will still be \$25 each; 5 for \$100 (which gets your name on the list of underwriters if you wish). A ticket reservation form is provided on page 8 of this newsletter. Members will receive a solicitation letter in mid-May with 2 tickets.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this fun evening!

— Marilyn McLeod

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Annual Meeting was held on the evening of April 25 at Jack's, with a higher than expected turnout.

In official business, the budget and nominations included in the April Voter were approved unanimously. We explained the rationale for the increase in member dues beginning July 1. In addition, members approved the list of Friends of the LWV. A sample from this list will be included in each of the next 12 Voter issues.

Outgoing Co-President Carol Schreiber recognized members that have contributed to our work in 2015-16. Co-President Peggy Placier also recognized Marcia Walker for her service as Secretary and Carol Schreiber for her years as Co-President.

The speaker, Barbra Horrell, provided an honest account of how racism shaped her life and career as an African American woman in Columbia and at MU. Her talk added to our resolve that working for voting rights must be social justice work.

— Peggy Placier and Diane Suhler
Co-Presidents



PRIMARY CANDIDATE FORUMS WILL BE HELD JULY 12 & 14

The Missouri Primary Election will be on August 2nd. The LWV is hosting a forum for the Republican and Democratic candidates for Southern Boone County Commissioner and Republican candidates for Northern Boone County Commissioner on July 12th. We will host a candidate forum on July 14th for the Democratic candidates for State Representative



District 46, Boone County Public Administrator, and 13th Judicial Circuit. Any ballot issues will be discussed at the July 14th forum. Both forums will be at the Columbia Public Library and begin at 6:30 p.m. KFRU will be broadcasting the forum live.

— Carol Schreiber

APRIL LUNCH & LEARN REPORT: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ZONE

On April 19 our Lunch and Learn speakers were the Rev. Lorenzo Lawson and Loretta Schouten of the Youth Empowerment Zone (YEZ), located on Fay Street in Columbia. The impetus for YEZ goes back to 2004, during the late Almeta Crayton's tenure on the Columbia City Council. She noticed that young people in the First Ward had a high rate of unemployment. But another impetus, Lawson said, was a shooting at the Columbia Mall that riveted the community's attention and created a fear of "youth violence."

After a series of town halls and a survey of young people, funding at first was allocated to a summer jobs program. However, participants did not persist on the job because they lacked certain basic life skills employers value. With the help of federal funds, YEZ was founded to teach those skills to youth ages 13-24 who are at highest risk of drug/alcohol use, dropping out of school, or involvement in criminal offenses – too

often young African American men. The "lock 'em up" approach to juvenile justice, Lawson explained, has not worked.

YEZ takes a holistic approach to youth development, with four dimensions – the "four E's" of Empowerment, Employment, Education, and Entrepreneurship.

- Empowerment means working with a caseworker to establish personal goals that are assessed and updated regularly. Empowerment also includes mentoring by community members and classes on life skills such as anger management.
- Employment includes training in resumes, interviews, and behaviors that enable job success, as well as partnering with numerous area businesses (listed on the YEZ website) for job placement.

(Article continues on page 4.)

LWV VOLUNTEERS CONDUCT MU GRADUATE STUDENT VOTE

In February, MNEA and the MU Coalition of Graduate Students contacted co-president Peggy Placier about conducting an election to gauge the level of support among employed graduate students for MNEA representation. The parties wanted us to handle the election because of our reputation as a trusted group that would run a credible, legitimate voting process. As many of you know, the Columbia Public Schools and MNEA had previously asked us to run the election for collective bargaining representation for teachers in the district.

The co-presidents talked by telephone and met with MNEA and grad student leaders to work out a process that would be controlled by LWV volunteers. A summary of how we would be involved, as well as our compensation for the effort, was approved by the LWV Board.

With Board approval, we moved ahead toward recruiting volunteers for 7am-6pm on April 18-19 at two locations on the MU campus. Filling so many slots was a challenge, but LWV members rose to that challenge! Volunteers were: David Leuthold, Ann Peters, Liz Schmidt, Dick Parker, Vena Long, Sharon Schneeberger, Aline Kultgen, Joni O'Connor, Rachel Brekhus, Sharon Schattgen,

Mahree Skala, Elaine Blodgett, Diane Suhler, Barbara Hoppe, Beth Traudes, Sharon Curry, Andrew Twaddle, Pam Springsteel, Meredith Donaldson, Marilyn McLeod, Carol Schreiber, and Peggy Placier.

Volunteers were informed about how to run the election, including not to discuss or express any positions about the decision, but to remain scrupulously neutral. We recorded votes on a Google database accessible only to our volunteers at both locations (to prevent duplicate votes). For students not in the database, we arranged for provisional ballots. LWV maintained the security of the ballot boxes at all times and counted the votes. Turnout was about 30% of eligible voters, with 84% voting in favor of union representation. While the graduate students and MU administration continue to negotiate about the students' right to organize, no questions have been raised about the vote itself.

We received very positive feedback from MNEA, the Coalition of Graduate Students, and the volunteers for our conduct of the process. Volunteers also earned a donation of \$1500 to put toward our work in the community. Well done!

— Peggy Placier, Co-President

Peggy Placier and Mahree Skala were among the many League members who helped conduct the MU Graduate Student Vote on April 18 and 19.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ZONE

(cont'd from pg. 2)

- Education entails tutoring to support school achievement, or for those who have dropped out, attainment of the GED. Each student has an individual education plan linking current studies with career and/or postsecondary goals.
- Entrepreneurship means hearing from professionals about the steps that support success.

Today YEZ has funding from the state, city, United Way, community organizations, and in the near future from Boone County. The program staff members are also in the process of collecting "success stories" of young people who have participated in the program and of

building a supportive and active board. Staff member Loretta Schouten spoke about a proposed expansion of YEZ into an early childhood program designed to improve kindergarten readiness by working with both children and caregivers. The program, approved for 16 children, will open in the fall.

Lawson said that despite community support, the biggest barrier for YEZ is still funding. Programs face a competitive climate for funding, as "rivals" for the same pot of resources. The key is collaboration among all agencies that respect and advocate for (rather than judge or reject) young people. Additional information about YEZ, including directions on how to volunteer or donate, is available on its website at <http://www.yezweb.org/>.

— Peggy Placier, Co-President



ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS

Top Left: Priscilla Bevins Bartlett and Marge Hicks

Top Right: Barbara Schneider, Marilyn McLeod, and Sharon Schneeberger.

Left: Peggy Placier, retiring secretary Marcia Walker, Win Colwill, guest speaker Barbra Horrell, and retiring co-president Carol Schreiber.



ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS

Top Left: Mahree Skala, retiring secretary Marcia Walker, and guest speaker Barbra Horrell.

Middle Left: Andrew and Sarah Twaddle

Middle Right: Peggy Placier, guest speaker Barbra Horrell, and retiring co-president Carol Schreiber.

Lower Left: Pam Springsteel, Linda Brown and Joan Mudrick

Lower Right: Tom Pauley and Steve Mudrick.





Upcoming League Events!



MAY 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 CAT TV Columbia's Renewable Energy Std. 7:00 p.m.	12 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	13	14
15	16	17 Lunch & Learn Mental Health Month South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon	18	19	20	21
22	23 LWV Board Mtg & Planning Mtg Library 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	JUNE 1	2	3	4
5	6 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	7	8 The Music Man Fundraiser CEC 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents: Diane Suhler (443-0549)
and Peggy Placier (442-2996)
1st VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
Treasurer: David Leuthold (449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
Meredith Donaldson (289-3015)
Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)
Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
Mahree Skala (474-2195)
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
Dick Parker (256-4397)
Liz Schmidt (445-0655)
Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
Civil Liberties: Open position
Education: Open position
Energy Matters: Dick Parker
Fundraising Co-Chairs:
Liz Schmidt & Pam Springsteel
Health: Mahree Skala
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Membership: Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwcabc.org
State: lwvmisouri.org
National: lwv.org
Local Voter Information Portal:
lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org
Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LEAGUE!

As you know, 2016 will be a busy election year!! We will have forums for the city council, hospital, school board, county, state and national elections (and primaries), plus our educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Thanks for your support!

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.

Send to PO Box 239, Columbia, MO. 65205

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.)

MEMBER UPDATE

The League welcomes new members
Tom and Cheryl Darrough, Jan and
Steve McLuckie, and Martha Stevens.

**LWV TURBOVOTE NOW ACTIVE!**

Our voter registration and assistance website is now available at lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org. It allows individuals to register to vote; request absentee ballots; update addresses; request alerts about upcoming elections via text messages and email reminders; and learn about issues, candidates, etc., through data provided by the non-partisan Voter Information Project. LWV has partnered with Mizzou students and TurboVote to create this website. Mizzou students have their own TurboVote site. Our portal is available to Columbia College, Stephens and Moberly Area CCC students, as well other Boone County citizens.



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcba.org>

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBIA MO 65201

Permit No. 122

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ticket Reservation Form

Columbia Entertainment Company
1800 Nelwood Drive
Wednesday, June 8, 2016



- ☐ I wish to reserve _____ tickets at \$25 each
- ☐ I wish to be an underwriter for the play (\$100 minimum): _____
(5 tickets for each \$100)

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ - Phone _____

Return to Liz Schmidt, PO Box 239, Columbia, Mo 65205
573-445-0655 lizschmidt65203@gmail.com