



The Voter

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

MAY 11 LUNCH & LEARN: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES



Our Lunch & Learn program at noon on Tuesday, May 11, will feature a panel of speakers from the Children's Grove Social, Emotional and Mental Well-being Interest Group to talk about youth-related mental health issues. Our guest speakers will be Chad Rose, Heather Harlan, Lesley Thalhuber and Ron Rowe.

Every developmental stage, and especially the teenage years, is accompanied by its own challenges to emotional and mental well-being. We now know that COVID restrictions, and even the loss of loved ones, can exacerbate typical teen challenges (e.g., proms, graduations, etc.).

Youth mental health is not a solo sport; everyone needs an "assist." As parents, grandparents, teachers, aunts, uncles, and neighbors, it's WE who are actually the "first responders" in observing youth who are under stress or even in crisis. What are the signs we should recognize and how might we effectively assist the youth

exhibiting them? Viewers are welcome to pose questions in the Zoom Chat.

On Tuesday, June 8, our Lunch & Learn program will feature Boone County Commissioner Janet Thompson and Columbia City Finance Director Matt Lue, who will give us an update on city and county funds from the Cares Act and the American Rescue Plan.

There will be no Lunch & Learn Programs for July and August. We will resume in September. Have a good summer!

Thank you to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs. You will need to register for these events on the library's website: events.dbri.org. Lunch & Learn Programs are also recorded and can be viewed on our website and our Facebook page.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

CALL TO ACTION: REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI

The 2020 Census has been completed, and, as happens every ten years, redistricting follows the Census. Although some Census statewide data has been released, the detailed data will not arrive until September. While the Missouri overall population remains about the same, with eight US Congressional Districts, 163 MO House seats, and 34 MO Senate districts, district boundaries may change because of population shifts.

Nationwide, the LWV is calling for [People Powered Fair Maps](#). Following a transparent process is the way to accomplish fair maps and to ensure equity in voting.

What can you and a group like the League do now to promote fair maps?

In a nutshell, you can:

- Volunteer to serve on a Redistricting Commission (either the House or Senate commission)
- Advocate for fair maps
- Participate in the community mapping project

How do you volunteer to serve on a Redistricting Commission?

Contact the Democratic or Republican Party in your district to volunteer. The county committee chair and vice-chair and the state party chair from each political party will be nominating commissioners. Their meetings will happen in May 2021.

Each party will nominate 21 people — two from each Congressional District and five at-large (statewide). (Continued on pg. 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank Marilyn McLeod for serving as the LWVCBC President for the last two years. She has done an outstanding job. Fortunately, she will remain on our Board even as she takes over as President of the State League of Women Voters. Thank you, Marilyn, and Congratulations!

I am very thankful and fortunate to have Marilyn's knowledge and help in the coming year. I am also grateful that Mahree Skala has agreed to be our 1st Vice President. She is a diligent, knowledgeable, and hardworking Board Member and will be invaluable as 1st Vice President.

We also have an outstanding, knowledgeable, and hardworking board. Each member does more than their share to make this a working, effective organization.

Finally, we rely on and thank our many members who help in countless ways by contacting representatives, serving on committees, helping educate fellow citizens, and more, in order to preserve, protect and enhance our right to vote, our access to voting, and to get out the information everyone needs in order to make informed decisions.

As always, the LWV has our work cut out for us in the coming year. While the League of Women Voters initially began as an organization

working to establish voting rights for women, we now work tirelessly and diligently to protect the right to vote for all. Redistricting, gerrymandering, voter ID restrictions, and other attacks on the right to vote, including the right of voters to pass ballot initiatives, are just a few of the many challenges we are facing today.

We only can be successful if we do this work together. We will need you — to contact your representatives and tell your friends, family, and neighbors to contact them — as these issues and votes arise, particularly in Missouri. Together we can and will make a difference.

I look forward to doing this critical work with the help of all of you.

— Barbara Hoppe, President
yesforparks@hotmail.com



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 and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. At our annual meeting on April 28 we approved naming the following people who have helped us in recent months as Friends of the LWV. Thanks, from the LWV!

- **Public Forum Speakers:** Seth Smith, Ranita Norwood, Ruth McClusky, Asia Smith, Steve Calloway, Joanne Nelson, D'Andre Thompson, and Verna LaBoy.
- **Lunch & Learn Speakers:** Peggy Placier, Brianna Lennon, Barbara Horrell, Rene Powell, John Bowders, Lydia Olmsted, Steve Hollis, Alan Spell, La Toya Stevens, Rachel Delcau, Geoff Jones, Carolyn Amperan and Jay Haysheider.
- **Special Events Speakers:** Elizabeth Palmieri and David Sapp.
- **Special service to the LWV:** Lauren Williams with the Columbia Public Library. She has been our Zoom coordinator and served as the moderator of the forum "Minority Youth: Inequities in Justice."
- **Annual Meeting Guest Speaker:** Kathy Kiely, MU School of Journalism.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

For the second year in a row, our April 28 LWV-CBC annual meeting was held online via Zoom.

Our guest speaker was Kathy Kiely, MU Journalism Professor, and she spoke on the topic “Democracy is a Fragile Thing.” Kiely’s compelling speech provided a behind-the-scenes look at the changes in our dialog over recent decades, and how insulated we now are; we are tending to move closer to people whose beliefs are like our own. She also addressed where we get our information, citing a study showing that students get their news principally from social media, not traditional news sources. She also expressed concern that people are unwilling to talk to each other, and may be seen as “the enemy” if they do; she noted that, in Israel, Jewish people and Palestinians are seen

as “collaborators” if they try to find a middle ground, and this is negatively perceived.

After striving to “make democracy work” for more than 100 years, the League has long known that “Democracy is a Fragile Thing.” After the meeting, several members asked how we can work with the J-School and Ms. Kiely to engage people with differing opinions.

We were so pleased to present the Eleanor Goodge Award to Carol Schreiber. Carol thanked the members and looked forward to in-person voter registration and voter education.

In the business portion of the meeting, the slate of nominations and the proposed budget were approved by acclamation. The proposed revisions of the Bylaws were voted on individually and approved. (Cont’d on pg. 6)

CALL TO ACTION: REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI

(Cont’d from pg.1) The Governor selects one nominee from each district and two at-large nominees from each party.

How do you advocate for Fair Maps?

- After they are nominated, contact the commissioners to tell them you want them to draw fair maps, and suggest they make data public when it is received.
- Advocate for more public meetings than the minimum of three required.
- Talk about prioritizing fairness rather than incumbent protection.
- Online, monitor the redistricting process at <https://oa.mo.gov/budget-planning/redistricting-office>
- Attend public hearings (probably in September and October) to show that citizens care how their districts are drawn.
- Tell your friends and neighbors.

How do you participate in the community mapping project?

Find and describe your community of interest. A community of interest is a group of people who share cultural or historic characteristics or economic interests, are contiguous on a map, and share a common bond linked to a set of

public policy issues that would be affected by legislation.

The 2020 criteria protect race and color, but other communities do not have specific criteria outlined in the constitution. Community descriptions will be helpful, especially in later disputes.

To participate in this process, draw communities in your area using this tool: <https://districtr.org/event/missouri-mapping>. You don't have to draw the whole state. Please focus on creating your own community and accompany the map with text to explain your unique community. Many options are needed. Community maps will be the key if and when the maps go to the judges. (Without a 70% agreement in each commission, the maps will be drawn by six appellate judges selected by the MO Supreme Court.)

The solution to Fair Maps is to shine a bright light on the redistricting process and the maps put forward by the Missouri Redistricting Committees so that voters can see what is happening. Please carefully consider what you can do and then take action. If you have questions or want to participate in some of these actions, please contact Sharon Schneeberger at (sharon@schneeberger.net)

— Sharon Schneeberger
sharon@schneeberger.net



Upcoming League Events!



MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2	3	4	5	6 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am	7	8
9	10	11 Lunch & Learn: Children's Grove Zoom at Noon	12	13	14	15 LWVMO State Convention
16	17 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	JUNE 1	2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am	5
6	7	8 Lunch & Learn: Local Funds from Cares Act & American Rescue Plan Zoom at Noon	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

LWV Officers:

President: Barbara Hoppe
(424-9668)
1st VP: Mahree Skala (474-2195)
2nd VP: Diane Suhler (443-0549)
Secretary: Carol Schreiber
(657-0639)
Treasurer: Ruth Milledge
(268-9591)

Elected Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)
Susan Clark (446-1678)
Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)
Rene Powell (864-4087)
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

Appointed Directors:

Dick Parker (256-4397)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: David Leuthold
Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel
Education: Zona Burk
Energy & Climate: Dick Parker
ERA: Susan Koenig
Fundraising: Open
Health: Mahree Skala
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Membership: Meredith Donaldson
Mental Health: Mahree Skala
Redistricting Committee: Sharon
Schneeberger
Speakers Bureau: Open
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

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 member **Louise Eason**, a 93-year-old who was a member long ago. She led the effort to create Rock Quarry Park, off Grindstone, east of Rock Quarry Rd, and was one of the first women's scientists "long ago back in the '60s."

Membership for 2021: 206

2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone
County**

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership dues include local, state and national membership.

NEW _____ **RENEWAL** _____

Individual Dues \$65 _____ **\$100*** _____

Household Dues \$100 _____ **\$135*** _____

First time member 30 years of age and under. \$30 _____

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

**Student Dues in honor of our 100th Anniversary! \$0 _____
(Ages 16 to 23)**

Additional contribution to subsidize dues for members unable to afford membership rates. \$ _____

General Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Donation to LWV Education Fund \$ _____
(Please include a separate check for donations to the LWV Education Fund. Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible)

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 _____

***We invite you to help celebrate our 100th Anniversary by joining or renewing at the Suffragist Level!**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

(Cont'd from pg. 3) The suggested action items for topics in our Program were approved. Past president Win Colwill shared a statement from Dick Parker about climate change, and a correction to the statement about science-based teaching of climate change was approved.

The next order of business was to consider two new local studies. One would change our Social Justice position to include the legalization of marijuana and eliminate the criminalization of possession. No other state or local Leagues were found to have this position, so a local study is required. Dan Viets will work with other members to determine whether a past study provides sufficient material or if new and more updated material should be presented to members. This topic is really about social justice, so it seems logical that it be part of the work of our Civil Liberties Committee. The language we propose to add to our local Program is: "Legalization of Marijuana: Support legalization of adult use and cultivation of marijuana to eliminate the criminalization of possession of marijuana."

The second proposed study concerns retaining local control on issues such as health orders. This study has been proposed in response to a

MO State Legislature bill that would have limited the authority of local health officials. No other state or local Leagues were found to have this position, so a local study is required. Several LWV members have agreed to serve on the study committee. The language we propose to add to our local Program is: "Local entities have the right to implement policies that reflect the unique aspects of their location and population and should not be subjected to state overreach."

It has been a genuine pleasure to serve as the president of our League these past two years, despite the upheaval in all our lives. Thank you to the members for giving me that honor, and thank you especially to the members of the board, who were such a pleasure to work with and made everything go so well.

I am so pleased at this time to turn the gavel over to Barbara Hoppe, who will now serve as your LWV president. With an outstanding record of great things she has already done for our community, I know Barbara will provide the expert leadership our organization needs to continue our efforts to make democracy work.

— Marilyn McLeod