



Annual Report to Members

September 2020 – April 2021*

Voter Education Activities

- **Candidate and Ballot Issue Forums**
- **Voter Guides**
- **Voter Protection at the Polls**
- **No on 3 Advocacy**
- **Education on Redistricting**
- **Legislative Action Alerts**

Member/Public Education

- **Public Forums**
- **Lunch & Learn Programs**
- **LWVMO and LWVUS Activities**
- **KBIA Radio Spots on “Radio Friends with Paul Pepper”**
- **Monthly Newsletter - “The Voter”**
- **Social Media - Facebook & Twitter**

Recognitions

- **Liz Schmidt Community Service Award – Brianna Lennon and the staff of the Boone County Clerk’s office**
- **LWV Outstanding Citizen Award – Stephanie Browning and Scott Clardy (Columbia-Boone County Health Department)**
- **Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the LWV- Carol Schreiber**

*Our normal annual year begins at the end of our annual meeting in April. Last year, the timing was off due to the pandemic, therefore this Annual Report begins in September 2020, rather than May 2020.

Dear LWV-CBC Members,

This year will go down in history in every way for all of America and the world during a once-a-century (we hope) pandemic. But, for our League, despite the necessary limitations placed on us by the requirements of the public health department and concerns by our members, I am very pleased to say that we were still able to provide the public information, candidate and ballot issue forums, voter guides, voter protection, and educational programs for the public which are part of our mission. All were held on Zoom or on social media. They may not have been “in person” but they were still able to reach large numbers of our community. Interestingly, because most of our events were filmed and available for viewing after the event, perhaps we reached even more people.

In normal years, we are always actively involved in registering voters; that is the one activity which we regrettably reduced this year because of the in-person requirement of that activity. Looking for creative ways to encourage voter registration, we decided to do that activity “virtually” with a daily post for 100 days (!) on our Facebook and Twitter social media sites - encouraging voter registration and providing voter information. We must give a major note of thanks to members Sharon Schneeberger, Peggy Placier, and Carol Schreiber for their amazing efforts in making that work.

And, despite this year’s unusual situation, thanks to the efforts of our membership chair, Meredith Donaldson, we increased our membership to just over 200 members, which might be a record for our LWV chapter!

I am so proud of all that this organization does for our community and has for more than 100 years. Our reputation is solid as an organization that is dedicated to “making democracy work”. I want to be sure to convey my deep appreciation to the members of our board for their unwavering loyalty, support and the work that they do to achieve that goal. And I also want to convey my deep appreciation to all the members who steadfastly support our work. This is the final year of my term as president of this League. Under the expert leadership of incoming president Barbara Hoppe, I know that the LWV-CBC will continue to be a strong and respected community resource.

--Marilyn McLeod, LWV-CBC President

Voter Education Activities

- Produced voter education material on Amendment 3 (which replaced Clean Missouri)
- Educated voters on “mail-in voting” and “absentee voting” with Covid-19 changes
- Organized members to work for voter protection at the polls in August and November 2020
- Provided members with information to find a notary to notarize mail-in and absentee ballots
- Used social media (Facebook and Twitter) to promote voter registration and fair redistricting maps
- Produced Voter Guides for the November 3, 2020 General Election and the April 6, 2021 Local Election

- Held candidate forums on October 6 and 13 and a Ballot Issues Forum on September 30, 2020 for the November 3, 2020 election
- Hosted a ballot issue forum on “No on 3!” on October 8, 2020
- Hosted candidate forums on March 16 and 23 for the April 6, 2021 Local Election
- Provided leadership with local member Sharon Schneeberger serving as Chair of the LWVMO Redistricting Committee, working to educate voters, legislators and judges on drawing Fair Maps.
- Updated members on the status of the Equal Rights Amendment with Teri Miller and Susan Koenig serving as chair of the ERA Committee

Member and Public Education

Public Forums

“Fact, Opinion or Misinformation” program co-sponsored with the Columbia Public Library. Speaker, Seth Smith on December 10, 2020

Two programs on “Minority Youth: Inequities in Justice” with Ranita Norwood (Supervisor of Student Services CPS), Ruth McClusky (Bo Co Chief Juvenile Officer), Asia Smith (Battle HS student), and Steve Calloway (Minority Men’s Network) on February 3, 2021; and Joanne Nelson and D’Andre Thompson (Bo Co Community Services), Verna LaBoy (Family Access Center of Excellence), and Jason Fenstermacher on February 17. Lauren Williams (Columbia Public Library) served as moderator.

Lunch and Learn Monthly Programs (co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library)

“Bail, Bonds and Racial Justice” in Columbia and Boone County with Peggy Placier (Race Matters Friends and LWV) on September 8, 2020

Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon provided voters with pertinent voting information on October 13, 2020

“The Columbia African-American Heritage Trail” with Barbara Horrell (Sharp End Heritage Committee) on November 10, 2020

“Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Disabilities Act” with Rene Powell (LWV member), John Bowders and Lydia Olmsted on December 8, 2020

“The Economic and Social Impacts of Covid-19 in Columbia” with Steve Hollis (Human Service Manager for Columbia/Bo Co) and Alan Spell (MU Assistant Professor in the Division of Applied Social Sciences) on January 12, 2021

“The United Way Equity Challenge” with La Toya Stevens and Rachel Delcau (Heart of Missouri United Way) on February 9, 2021

“Columbia Chief of Police Geoff Jones” gave an update on the Columbia Police Department on March 9, 2021.

“Columbia’s Climate and Energy Planning” with Carolyn Amperan and Jay Haysheider on April 13, 2021

Special Events

“*Scenes from the Revolution*” was a two woman play on Zoom, directed by Elizabeth Palmeri (Greenhouse Theatre Project) on October 3, 2020.

Founder’s Day Event on December 10, 2020 with a presentation by David Sapp (local historian and LWV member) on the early settling of Boone County and presentation of the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award and the LWV Outstanding Citizen Awards.

Annual Meeting on April 28, 2021 with guest speaker Kathy Kiely, MU School of Journalism

LWVMO and LWVUS Activities

- Members participated in the LWVMO State Program Planning on January 27, 2021
- LWVMO People Powered Day of Action with Sharon Geuea Jones (attorney who worked on Clean Missouri) will be held on April 29

Recognition

- **Liz Schmidt Community Service Award** was given to Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon and her staff on December 11, 2021
- **The LWV Outstanding Citizen Award** was presented to Stephanie Browning and Scott Clardy (Columbia/Boone County Health Department) on December 11, 2021
- **Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the LWV** will be given to **Carol Schreiber** at our Annual Meeting on April 28, 2021
- **The Friends of the LWV** is a way for us to thank individuals who help us educate our members and the public

Fundraising

This was not a normal year for an in-person fundraiser, so our “Year Without a Play” was held virtually last summer, where we invited members and friends to contribute to our League. The response was excellent. We hope to return to our regular fundraiser play in the coming year.

Member Communication

- LWV newsletter *The Voter* is emailed monthly or a paper copy is mailed as requested by members
- Email updates on upcoming events and Action Alerts
- Facebook and Twitter updates and information for members and followers
- Members receive the bimonthly newsletter, “*The Missouri Voter*” and legislative bulletins from LWVMO (during the Missouri Legislature’s regular session)