



# The Voter

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

## OCTOBER 14 CAT TV: MONEY IN POLITICS

As we continue with our Money in Politics consensus study, we will dedicate the Oct. 14th show to this topic. Rudi Keller, political reporter for the Columbia Daily Tribune will provide us with an on-the-ground perspective on Missouri's legislature. A representative from the Libertarian Party will participate on the panel in favor of freedom of speech. We also plan to have a panel member who will speak against the effects of the Citizens' United Supreme Court decision.

CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98. The program will be available on our website or at [www.columbiaaccess.tv](http://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.



— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

## OCT. 20 LUNCH & LEARN: PARK SALES TAX ELECTION

On Tuesday, October 20th, Mike Griggs, Director of Columbia Parks and Recreation will be our speaker at the LWV Lunch & Learn. He will talk about the parks sales tax extension that will be on the Tuesday, November 3rd ballot.

Lunch & Learn is held at the South Hy-Vee meeting room. You can buy lunch in the restaurant

or bring your own food. The program is from noon to 1:00 p.m. and is open to the general public.



— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

## OCTOBER 20 FORUM: DO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

Our forum on GMOs will be on Oct. 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (please note early start time) in the Columbia Public Library Friends Room.

GMOs are an ever-growing part of our food supply, and many people have questions about their safety and environmental impacts. This forum will share some basic background information about GMOs—how they're developed and produced, and which crops are most likely to be GMOs. Several experts will then share different perspectives about the potential health effects of GMOs and the environmental impacts of GMO farming. Please come and participate in a lively conversation about an important topic.

David Lile will moderate, and the panelists will be: Alan Wessler, DVM, Vice President of Feed

Operations and Animal Health, MFA, Inc.; R. Michael Roberts, PhD, Curator's Professor of Animal Science, UMC; Kevin Bradley, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Plant Sciences, UMC; Dan Kuebler, Physical Therapist and local organic farmer; and Robert Kremer, PhD, Adjunct Professor, Division of Plant Science and Department of Soil, Environmental & Atmospheric Sciences, UMC, retired from USDA Agricultural Research Service.

The forum is co-sponsored by the LWV, the Columbia/Boone County Board of Health, and the Columbia Public Library.

— Mahree Skala, Health Committee Chair



## SEPTEMBER BOARD REPORT

Fourteen board members were present for the September 28th board meeting.

Board actions:

- Approved a \$200 donation to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial (see Aug. Voter) in the name of former local and state board member Maydell Senn. If you would like to contribute to this memorial in Maydell's name, please send your check made out to LWVMO to LWV, P. O. Box 239, Columbia 65205 and note it is for the Suffragist Memorial in Maydell's name. LWVMO is trying to put together \$1000 in donations from Missouri so that we will be recognized on the Honor Wall.
- The December Social will be at the Unitarian Church the second week of December (we will try to get on the main floor for better access), and we will again bring socks for the homeless. Heavy white socks are the preferred socks. Members will bring snacks and drinks, and the social will be from 5 to 7 p.m. The exact date will be in the next Voter.

The Board heard updates on:

- The Board requested a list of prior Outstanding Citizen Award winners and Marilyn McLeod will put the list together. The nomination deadline is Oct. 10 and the Board will likely vote via email and phone so the winner can be notified immediately.
- Dick Parker reported that he has delivered the Ex-Felon Voting Rights Information and voter registration cards to GRO, Phoenix and Reality House.

- The committee for fundraising ideas to help raise funds for LWVMO presented the idea of playing cards that could feature suffragists or places. These special playing cards could be sold throughout the state and at the LWVUS National Convention. We will begin working on this project possibly with college art students. The needed quantity to get the best price is 2000 decks of cards.
- Each year our local League pays the registration of 6 members for the LWVMO Fall Conference. The 2015 Conference will be on November 7th in Sedalia. The early bird registration is \$20 and includes lunch. If you would like to be one of the 6, please email Carol Schreiber at carolschrei@gmail.com.

Our next Board Meeting will be on October 26th at the Broadway Christian Church at 6:30 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

—Carol Schreiber and Peggy Placier  
Co-Presidents



## 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, provided meeting space and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we recognize a group of our Friends of the LWV as voted on by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County membership at our Annual Meeting on April 21, 2015. For Oct. 2015 we recognize:

- **Columbia Missourian** for providing extensive coverage of our forums and providing complimentary second-day ads.
- **KOPN radio** for re-broadcasting our forums.
- **Rep. Stephen Webber** for his Lunch and Learn presentation "What Lessons Should Columbia and Missouri Learn from Ferguson?" in October 2014.
- **Dr. Aaron Astor** for his CAT TV presentation "Civil War Reconstruction in the Border States" in October 2014. And thanks to **Dr. Keona Ervin** for moderating the program.
- **Vicky Riback Wilson** for speaking at our Founder's Day Luncheon in November 2014.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

## AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION: STUDY CONSENSUS MEETING OCTOBER 28

On Wednesday October 28 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the Columbia Public Library, LWVCBC will hold our consensus meeting for the study on Amending the Constitution. Marilyn McLeod and David Leuthold will facilitate the process. To prepare for the meeting, you can:

- Review the discussion guide and questions included in the September Voter (if you can't locate yours, it's always available on the lwvbc.org website under Newsletters).
- Watch the video and read some of the sources cited in the discussion guide,

especially the two very brief pro-con synopses.

- Watch the video of the Constitution Day presentation on Amending the Constitution by Dr. Justin Dyer on Mediacom.

Marilyn and David will skillfully guide us through the questions so that we can return our decisions (consensus or lack of it) to LWVUS.

If you have never participated in one of these meetings, please feel welcome to come. You don't have to be an expert on the Constitution, just an informed and thoughtful LWV member.

— Peggy Placier, Co-President

## AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION: NOTES ON DR. DYER'S TALK

Our Sept. 16 speaker, Dr. Justin Dyer, a constitutional scholar from the MU Political Science Dept, said that the questions we are considering for our study on Amending the Constitution are difficult. Because some people were unable to attend and don't have MediaCom, a summary of his major points is provided below.

Basic Understandings of the U.S. Constitution:

- Not simply a piece of paper but a living document. Practice reveals the meanings of the Constitution in any period.
- Brief (especially compared with some state constitutions) and does a limited number of things. It does not specify practice. That is up to political actors in each period of time.
- The recourse for problems, in most cases, is to change practice rather than amending the Constitution.

Amending the Constitution:

- Article V of the Constitution sets out two processes (see our Discussion Guide in the September Voter).
- Founders intentionally made amending difficult, with super majorities required at all levels.
- Therefore, amending is not the best (and certainly not the fastest) route for policymaking.

- All amendments to this point have been adopted through the first process – Congress adopts (2/3 of each house) and sends to the states, three-fourths of which must approve.
- The second process, a Constitutional Convention, has not been tried and is full of uncertainty. The states have forwarded many petitions for a Convention to Congress, but they have not been sufficient. (It should be noted that groups are currently organizing convention petitions for a variety of reasons. You may see news about these.)

Citizens United:

- Because this Supreme Court decision inspired LWVUS to propose the study we are completing, I asked him about it.
- Dyer summarized the majority arguments in the case, which do have merits and had support from a spectrum of political groups. This was very interesting, as his response differs from what LWVUS has sent us (mostly against Citizens United).

The Bottom Line:

- Most changes in government occur outside of the Constitution, not through amendments.
- Dyer argued that we should not amend often, but should ask, "What other political process will achieve our ends?"

— Peggy Placier, Co-President



## OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Each year we recognize a member of the Columbia/Boone County community as Outstanding Citizen of the Year. The LWV Board is looking for an individual who has had a significant impact on individuals, groups or the community as a volunteer or as part of their job. Some people are well known and others are not. If you know such an individual, please nominate them for this honor. Previous recipients have included Dr. Anne Deaton, Judge Ann Covington and Rep. Chris Kelly. The award will be presented at our November 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon at Jack's Restaurant.

**Nominations are due by October 10<sup>th</sup>.** Please provide the following: name, contact information, description of activities and qualifications. Also include your own name and contact information. Send your nominations to [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) or mail to LWV, P. O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. The LWV Board will select the winner at our October 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

### A THANK YOU NOTE

Lael Von Holt has shared a thank you card sent in response to the funding the LWV-CBC provided for Mental Health First Aid training for local teachers.

It reads as follows:

"On behalf of the Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition, please accept my gratitude and sincere thanks for your \$2,000 grant to support Mental Health First Aid in Boone County schools. Over 300 teachers benefited from your generosity!"

- Lou Ann Tanner-Jones,  
Director, Boone County Schools  
Mental Health Coalition.

### SEPTEMBER 10 ANNUAL PICNIC PHOTOS



Above, League members and guests enjoy the Sept 10 picnic at Stephens Lake Park. Left, Joni O'Connor, Peggy Placier, Dick Parker, Marilyn McLeod, John O'Connor, Pam Springsteel, Beth Traudes, Vicki Hobbes, and Ava Fajen pose with the League banner.

## FALL LWVMO STATE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7

The League of Women Voters of Missouri will hold their annual Fall Conference on Saturday, Nov. 7 at State Fair Community College in Sedalia. This event offers an opportunity to meet with fellow Leaguers from around the state and to learn about a variety of subjects.

Sessions will include a County Election Clerk talking about what's new in the world of voting and how to increase voter participation; a session on using local issues to grow your League in exciting ways; our "Money in Politics" study; upcoming state legislation; fundraising and more. We will hear news from all the Leagues around the state and there will also be a silent auction.

The day begins with registration at 9:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:00 p.m. The cost, which includes breaks, lunch and information packet is \$20 (if registered by Oct. 23; after that date, the cost is \$30).



If you would want to come to Sedalia on Friday, there is a block of rooms being held until October 16 at the Comfort Inn, 3600 West Broadway, Sedalia, MO 65301, Phone: 660-829-5050. The cost is \$82 plus tax, single or double. Mention the League of Women Voters to get this special rate.

Email Carol Schreiber (carolschrei@gmail.com) if you can come. We hope to have a large group!

— Marilyn McLeod

## APPLY NOW FOR CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS!!!

A very important way to get involved in City Government, beyond voting every three years for your Council Member, is to serve on a City Board or Commission. The City of Columbia is accepting applications until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, 2015 for numerous Commissions listed below. Applications are at the City Clerk's office or online at [www.gocolumbiamo.com](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com). (Click on "Meetings," then click on "Boards & Commissions" which will appear in a box on the left.)

**Please consider applying or encourage someone you know to apply.** When I was on Council I often would often call to recruit specific people to apply, to make sure we had good applicants. Note: Some openings may have specific qualifications, such as living in a particular ward, being from the County or having certain training or skills.

### Important Things to Know:

- If you apply and don't get on the Board, ask the City Clerk to keep your application on file. (If someone on the committee is reapplying they may be the preferred candidate. However, eventually a spot will open and an existing members won't reapply. This is often the best chance to get appointed.)
- It is also helpful to send an email to at least four council members or more, sometime during the week prior to the next Council Meeting, when they will vote, Oct. 19, 2015 in this case. Email a short paragraph: introduce

yourself, tell them why you want to serve on that commission, let them know you are a LWV member and highlight key training, service or skills you have that are relevant to the Commission.

### There are now openings for the following City Commissions & Boards:

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Board of Adjustment
- Building Construction Codes Commission
- Citizen Police Review Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
- Human Services Commission
- Tax Increment Financing Commission (TIF)
- Substance Abuse Advisory Commission
- Columbia Vision Commission
- Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness
- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County
- Columbia New Century Fund
- Board of Electric Examiners
- Board of Mechanical Examiners
- Board of Plumbing Examiners.

— Barbara Hoppe

Note: The **November 17 Lunch & Learn** meeting will provide more information on getting involved with city and county boards and commissions.



## Upcoming League Events!



OCTOBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				OCT 1	2	3
4	5	6 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	7	8 Voter Service Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9 Mature Living Fair	10
11	12	13	14 CAT TV: Money in Politics 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17 Sustainability Fair
18	19	20 Lunch & Learn: Park Sales Tax South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon ***** Forum: Health Effects of GMOs Library, 6:30p.m.	21	22	23	24
25	26 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	27	28 Constitution Study Consensus Meeting 6:30 p.m. Library Room A	29	30	31
NOV 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 LWVMO Fall Conference Sedalia
8	9	10 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	11 CAT TV: Affordable Housing 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Annual Founders' Luncheon Jack's Restaurant
15	16	17 Lunch & Learn: How to Get on City Boards & Commissions South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon	18	19	20	21
22	23 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	24	25	26	27	28



**LWV Officers:**

Co-Presidents:

Carol Schreiber (657-1467)  
and Peggy Placier (442-2996)  
1st VP: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)  
2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)  
Secretary: Marcia Walker  
(443-8666)  
Treasurer: David Leuthold  
(449-1358)

**Elected Directors:**

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)  
Joni O'Connor (234-1012)  
Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)  
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
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)  
Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

**Committee Chairs:**

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

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Websites:

Local: [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org)State: [lwvmisouri.org](http://lwvmisouri.org)National: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)

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



In this newsletter you will find an addressed envelope. Use this with the coupon inside the back cover (page 7). Dues are now due for 2016. (Those who have paid already will find the envelope marked paid). If anyone wants to donate a little extra, your LWV will use it wisely. As you know, 2016 will be a busy election year!!

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.

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 2016 LWV Calendars are here. \$5. Contact Liz Schmidt.

The league welcomes new member Lynn Maloney.

We are deeply saddened to report the August passing of two longtime board members, Maydell Senn and Bertrice Bartlett.

Bertrice served on the LWV's Energy Matters Committee in the late '90's and helped pass Columbia's 2004 renewable energy ordinance. She was a board member and chaired our "Defense of Civil Liberties Task Force," which, in 2005, applied for and got a National LWV/MacArthur Foundation Grant. We were one of only ten Leagues funded to conduct a community conversation on the balance between civil liberties and security. Condolences may be sent to Bennett Bartlett, Farnsworth & vonBerg, LLP, 333 No. Sam Houston Parkway, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77060.

Maydell was active on our Voter Service Committee and was our "point person" for many years for our Annual Town Meeting with State Legislators. She was a board member and served as president of the local League from 2002 to 2004. She served on the state board as well; LWVMO sent flowers and a card to her son. Our local board has also made a \$200 donation in her name to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial (see Aug. Voter for details on the project). Condolences may be sent to Rick Senn, 755 Lake Morey Rd., Fairlee, VT, 05045.



**League of Women Voters**

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Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcba.org>

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## **ANNUAL FOUNDERS' LUNCHEON WILL BE NOVEMBER 14**

The 2015 Recognition Luncheon will be Saturday, Nov. 14 at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, 1903 Business Loop 70 East. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the meal will at noon. This will be a great time to celebrate our many years of service to the community. The Columbia League of Women Voters began in 1919.

At this annual event we celebrate where we are today and also take a look at the history of our organization or our community and especially the women of the time.



This year our guest speaker will be Mary Beth Brown who will talk about Annie Fisher, a local entrepreneur who transcended the difficulties of both being a woman and a person of color in the early years of the 20th century. In a time when it was not common or easy for a woman to be a successful business entrepreneur, Ms. Fisher became renowned for her enterprise and culinary skills! Although we aren't able to establish if she was a member of the League at the time, we think she is an interesting example of how women were able to override the barriers of society.

Mary Beth Brown has a MA in History with a graduate certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a MSLS in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. She is currently working towards a PhD in history. Prior to working in Black Studies, she worked as a manuscript specialist at Western Historical Manuscript Collection for 6 years.

We will also present the Outstanding Citizen Award at this event. Details about the recipient will be included in the November Voter.

The \$20 buffet lunch will include meat and vegetarian options. Pay in advance or at the door, but make your reservation by Nov. 9 by contacting Liz Schmidt (573-445-0655 or [lizschmidt65203@gmail.com](mailto:lizschmidt65203@gmail.com).) We hope you will plan to attend this enjoyable and informative event! Make your reservation today!

— Marilyn, McLeod