



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 75, No. 6

JULY, 2010

Primary Election Forum

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a forum for the August Primary Election. The forum includes candidates with primary races and pro and con speakers on the HealthCare Ballot Issue.

Confirmed candidates are:

- Presiding Boone County Commissioner Democratic Candidates Scott Christianson and John Sam Williamson
- Associate Circuit Judge, Circuit 13, Division 5 Democratic Candidates Larry Bryson and Kim Shaw
- Libertarian 9th Congressional Candidates Steven Wilson and Christopher Dwyer.

The con speaker on the Health Care Ballot Issue will be former State Representative Tim Harlan. We have not confirmed the pro speaker on the ballot issue.

The forum will be Wednesday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library. Refreshments will be at 6:00 p.m. The Columbia Public Library is co-sponsoring the forum.

Be an Informed Voter on August 3rd!

The Fate of PACE?

Will Governor Nixon sign the legislation that includes PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy)?

Advocates for the program are urging him to sign the bill that allows cities to set up local Clean Energy Development Boards to finance the cost of energy retrofits and renewable energy systems for home and business owners. Property owners repay the loan over 20 years through a special assessment attached to their property taxes; upon sale the loan obligation and the energy savings transfer to the next owner. PACE financing benefits homeowners by paying for the cost of energy improvements; cities benefit from new job creation, property upgrades and a lower carbon footprint.

For more information see the LWV Voter, May issue and <http://pacenow.org>.

Win Colwill, Co-Chair
Energy Matters Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- *Civil Liberties Com. Mtg, Thurs., July 8, 1: 15 pm., Library*
- *Election Forum, Wed., July 14, Library, 6:30 p.m.*
- *Board Mtg., Mon., July 26, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric*
- *Education Com. Mtg., Thurs, July 29, Library*
- *Open Meeting on Bullying in Schools, Sat. morning, August, date to be determined*

Fact Checking

In this election cycle, voters wanting to check the accuracy of campaign ads can go to

www.politifact.com or www.factcheck.org



The last day to register to vote in the August 3rd primary election is Wednesday, July 7th.



As you can tell from the rest of this issue of the *Voter*, the national convention of the League of Women Voters recently concluded in Atlanta. Four of our local members were able to participate and the state as a whole had about 16 Leaguers in attendance from five different local leagues and the state board. A good showing!

This was the first national convention for me (as well as for Dick Parker, our other local delegate) and I was impressed with the dedication and energy from those in attendance (there were sessions from 7:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. every day!). Even more relevant was the breadth and depth of the knowledge evident among delegates as well as the passion with which problems were addressed. I believe all of us returned with many ideas.

I was also struck, however, with the diversity among the delegates particularly in age and orientation. Not unlike the movie, *Iron Jawed Angels*, there was almost always a “negotiation” between those who wanted to be more confrontational and those who wanted to be more politick. Although such discussions were not always comfortable, the give-and-take is, I believe, critical to the success of both the League and its (our) issues.

The delegates addressed many important issues, at least some of which are demonstrated in the studies, concurrences and resolutions approved which are listed later in this issue. Although you may find some to be controversial, all were thoroughly discussed by the delegates before being voted upon. There was not sufficient space in this issue to give you the details on some of the issues, but many will appear in coming issues.

Most immediately, two national studies were approved and we will need your help in establishing the study committees, doing the background research (with the help of LWVUS), discussing the issues and coming to consensus in the coming months. Watch for the information.

Linda Kaiser
President



Welcome to our newest member of the League, Marion Mace Dickerson .

Two Studies Approved at the 2010 LWVUS Convention!

Education:

The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.

Privatization (LWV of Seattle, Washington):

A study of privatization of public services to include: (1) What services do we, as citizens expect our government to provide us; (2) The philosophical basis for privatization; (3) An examination of how privatization works in terms of cost, oversight, (to include transparency), efficiency and observation of ethical and legal standards in safety, labor management, environmental issues, etc.; and (4) An evaluation of quasi-public institutions such as the USPS, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, private military contractors.

In the coming months, the national board will solicit applications from members interested in working on these two study committees and those committees will determine the final scope of each study and reporting timelines. Look for our own local League announcements on joining one of the study steering committees.

National Program 2010-2012

Under Article XII, Section 2 of the LWVUS Bylaws, convention delegates can concur with a position statement at convention, provided that the concurrence is passed by a two-thirds majority and provided that notice is given six weeks before convention and that the concurrence statement is supported by pro and con material and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member of agreement. Historically, concurrence at convention has been based on position statements arrived at after study and consensus in one or more states, but the bylaws do not limit concurrences in that manner. The following concurrences were approved:



Arms Control (LWVUS Board recommendation): To amend and update the Arms Control position based on the review and recommendation of the LWV Arms Control Task Force

Marriage Equality (LWV of Saratoga County, NY): To be added to the Quality of Opportunity position, based on studies by LWV of Maryland and LWV of Maine: The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

National Popular Vote Compact (LWV of Arizona): To add the following words as the third sentence to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished."

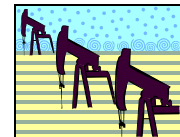
All other current LWVUS positions were retained in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

Resolutions Approved at the 2010 LWVUS Convention



Cuba (LWV of Florida): Be it therefore resolved that we, the representatives at the 2010 National Convention of the League of Women Voters, call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby to lift the travel ban to Cuba."

Safe Drilling and Mining (LWV of Tompkins County, New York): Be it therefore resolved that we, the representatives at the 2010 National Convention of the League of Women Voters, call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.



Filibuster (LWV of Kalamazoo Area, Michigan): Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.

SARA Resolution (LWV of Monterey Peninsula, California): Be it resolved that the LWVUS add the principle of Transparency to the SARA Resolution, as adopted at the 2004 LWVUS Convention and amended at the 2006 LWVUS Convention, so that the following principles are included: Security, Accuracy, Reaccountability, Accessibility and Transparency. (This relates to electronic voting.)



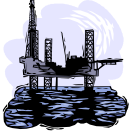
(continued on next page)

Resolutions (continued from page 3)

Health Care (LWV of Bloomington-Monroe County, Indiana): Be it resolved that we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.



Gulf of New Mexico (LWV of Dane County, Wisconsin and LWV of Alabama): We request that LWVUS highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWVUS demands that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health, and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.



Advancing Renewables in the Midwest

Take advantage of this outstanding one-day conference on Thursday, July 15 to learn about the latest advances in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The MO Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Dept. of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as utility, business, and advocacy organizations will provide their expertise.

The wide-ranging sessions, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the MU campus, will include discussion of Columbia's bioreactor, solar energy in Germany vs. the Midwest, jobs from energy audits, EPA's new greenhouse gas rules, MO wind energy projects, electric grid reliability, financing of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) and more. Two MU professors will address "The Climate Change Debate" from different perspectives.

For the full agenda and registration information visit: AdvancingRenewables.org/ (Conference fee for non-professionals: \$50. Late fee added after July 2.) The conference is sponsored. In part, by Columbia Water & Light and University of Missouri Atmospheric Sciences.



Coming July 15!

Win Colwill, Co-Chair
Energy Matters Committee

Equality Day Brunch



The theme of the 23rd annual Equality Day Brunch, sponsored by the Missouri Women's Network, is the 90th Anniversary of Women Getting the Vote. Presentations will include election and legislative issues, political action, awards and women's equity. The event will take place on Saturday, August 21st at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton, Missouri (7750 Carondelet) from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 (\$15.00 for students). The registration deadline is August 16.

For more information, or to make reservations, contact Shirley Breeze (314-831-5359) or Lynne Roney (314-727-7175).

Member Reports from the Convention

Dick Parker: I attended the Great Lakes Water issues meeting and felt that little of it applied to the rest of us. Their major current issue seemed to be storm water causing sewage overflows. That has been a well documented problem for more than 40 years and is very expensive to fix. The other problems which were briefly touched on are also old problems.

The Redistricting caucus suggested that each state might be interested in using a computer program which is being developed to permit non-governmental groups to suggest redistricting plans. Someone in our League might be interested in following up on this since redistricting will also take place at the city government level. I have considerable information if anyone is interested.

(Editor's Note: Dick was one of our League's official delegates to the convention. He also worked with other delegates from other Leagues to try to get a study adopted for a Department of Peace. Although it did not succeed this time, he is continuing the effort.)

Elaine Blodgett: The Atlanta, GA League convention was as interesting as anyone I have attended. Given the really hot weather, 98 degrees in Atlanta, it was good to be indoors and all on one level. And, the drive down and back with Mary Merritt, Kathleen Boswell, and Lois Detrick provided great conversation and interesting ideas despite highway back-ups, storms and lightning.

About 700+ people attended as lots of ideas were submitted and many actually came to fruition as Linda gives in her report. As a candidate on the national ballot who was brand new, I served at the microphone with local Georgia volunteers as a parliamentary aide, and had to pay close attention to the process. It became important also to see what if anything would happen if there were candidates nominated from the floor and how the the whole nominating process went. It's great to be representing Columbia, Missouri.

Dick made a wonderful presentation on the Peace Department, and I was thrilled that Columbia Boone County had a study to present. At the end, even though we were all ready to leave, there were about 52 people at the microphones with advice or questions for LWVUS, and every single person got to speak and express their thoughts. Also, the quilt that was raffled off for Missouri league went to someone in Georgia and it will forever have a quilt square done by our own league member, Marge Hicks.

(Editor's Note: Elaine was elected as the LWVUS Nominating Committee Chair for 2010-12 at the convention. Currently, she is also that Missouri state coordinator for the Membership Recruitment Initiative.)

Press Release, June 14, 2010: Today, Flag Day, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ) announced strong opposition to the immigration measure recently passed by the Arizona legislature and signed by the governor that could cause law enforcement officials to target racial and ethnic minorities unfairly.

"The struggle for fairness and equality has been long and hard; it is very disappointing when a state legislature and governor turn their backs on fundamental civil rights," said national League president Mary Wilson. "The inevitable result of this law is that 'equal justice under law' will be undermined," she said.

Whenever an officer stops, detains or arrests an individual in Arizona, the new law requires the officer to check a person's legal status if the officer has a "reasonable suspicion" that the detained person is illegal. However, the law is vague about what constitutes what "reasonable suspicion," raising the concern about fair and equal enforcement.

Bonnie Saunders, president of LWVAZ said: "On the surface, many of the elements of this law might seem reasonable, but taken as a whole, the law undermines the basic values that we stand for in Arizona."

"Today, as we celebrate Flag Day, the League of Women Voters celebrates the American dream – the dream that every person will receive equal justice under law," the two presidents said. "Arizona needs to change its law to make it conform to fundamental American values," they concluded.

(Note: The League of Women Voters of Arizona and the League of Women Voters of the U.S. joined a lawsuit challenging the recently-enacted SB 1070 in Arizona, purported to be an attempt to curb illegal immigration, that "will subject United States citizens and legal residents who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and particularly those who may be perceived to be somehow 'foreign,' to the disruption, stress, and humiliation of detention and interrogation." To read the amicus brief, go to www.lwv.org.)



A Success!

Our fundraiser was a success! It was a social hour with beverages and finger foods, followed by a performance of Into the Woods by the Columbia Entertainment Company. More than fifty people attended. We cleared approximately \$1,200 from this event for future League activities. The continued generosity of our members, friends, and business donors is heartwarming. We thank each and every one of you who purchased tickets or donated time, money, or food. The additional money brought in by our fundraisers supplements our dues and is essential to keeping us solvent.



Thank you to all who helped with the event, both financially and in person. Our underwriters were: Kathryn and Bill Allen, Win and Jack Colwill, Kay and Ed Hunvald, Margaret Joseph, Bev Kabrick-Horn, Barbara Kopta, Joni and John O'Connor, Liz Schmidt, and Elizabeth Winnacker. The food brought by members was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Business donors who contributed platters of food to make the event a success were: Ingredient at 304 S. Ninth Street, Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, and Main Squeeze. Upper Crust Bakery contributed 3 coupons for a free lunch. Flowers were compliments of Bob Schattgen and Patricia's Flower Shop. Winners of the drawing, drawn by our youngest attendee, Briana Schultz, were: Barbara Hoppe, Linda Kaiser, and Maggie Grier. The floral arrangements were won by: Peg Miller, George Smith and Jim Vest.

And of course, appreciation goes to all those who helped with planning, publicity, program inserts, ticket sales, calling members, picking up donations, member food donations, tending bar, taking tickets and photos and finally that all important task of cleanup. Here are the folks who pitched in on those tasks to make the evening the success it was, not to mention the very talented actors of Columbia Entertainment Company: Rachel Brekhus, Linda Lenau Brown, Elaine Blodgett, Holly Burgess, Win Colwill, Linda Kaiser, Lael Von Holt, Joni O'Connor, Midge Pinkerton, David Sapp, Liz Schmidt, Carol Schreiber, Maydell Senn, Pam Springsteel, and our bartenders extraordinaire George Smith and John O'Connor.

Barbara Greeley Kopta
Fundraiser Coordinator



Officers

President: Linda Kaiser (474-1407)
1st Vice President: Rachel Brekhus
2nd Vice President: Carol Schreiber
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Discussion Groups/Unit Meetings: Midge Pinkerton
Education: Holly Burgess & Zona Burk
Energy Matters: Win Colwill & Dick Parker
Fundraising: Barbara Kopta
Historian: Marilyn McLeod
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Membership: Linda Lenau Brown & Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
Nominating: Sarah Wolcott
Peace: Dick Parker
Special Events: Jane Ellen Ashley
Taxes/Land Use/Sunshine Coalition: Jo Sapp
Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor & Linda Kaiser
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Meetings

Board: 4th Monday, 6:30 p.m., Boone Electric Coop
Civil Liberties: 2nd Thursday, 1:15 pm., Library
Education: 4th Thursday, 6:30 pm, Library
Energy Matters: 4th Tuesday, 1 p.m., Library
Fundraising: Varies
Peace: Varies
Voter Service: Varies

Websites

lwv.columbia.missouri.org (ours)
lwvmissouri.org (state)
lwv.org (national)

Membership

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.

To join the League, 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.

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.

Longtime member Mary Kathleen Edwards, 71, of Columbia died peacefully in her sleep Thursday, June 10, 2010. She was born Oct. 12, 1938, to John R. and Ione Fields McGuire in Springfield. She worked at Ellis Library and then the Freedom of Information Center at the University of Missouri and was involved in several organizations.



Would you like to see the Voter in color? Save the League printing and mailing costs? You can now get the Voter direct to your computer early by contacting co-editor Linda Kaiser at lin-daskaiser@gmail.com. Let her know you would like to receive your Voter via email and send Linda the email address to which you would like to receive the Voter.



This began with the February, 2010 Voter!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

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Columbia, MO 65205

<http://lwv.columbia.missouri.org>

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*LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard
democracy leads to civic improvement.*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Last day to register to vote in the Aug. primary	8 Civil Liberties Com., 1:15 pm, Library B	9	10
11	12	13	14 Election Forum, 6:30 pm, Library	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Board Mtg., 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Community Room	27 CAT3-TV Taping	28	29 Education Com. Mtg., 6:30 pm, Library	30	31
Aug. 1	Aug. 2	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7