



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 75, No. 8

AUGUST, 2010

Fall Picnic & General Meeting




It's that time again, although a little different! The League will celebrate Women's Equality Day (the day the 19th Amendment passed giving women the right to vote) by having our fall picnic and general meeting. This year our picnic will be late afternoon—**4:30-6:30 p.m.**—to allow our working members to attend as well. It will be held in the **Gordon Shelter, Stephens Park** (across from the Eastside IGA store on East Broadway). When is Women's Equality Day?.....**Thursday, August 26th.**

The League will provide sandwiches, drinks and tableware, with potluck deserts and salads brought by you.

This is a great time to learn what committees are planning for the fall, to re-connect with other League members and to introduce potential members to what the League is about. Bring a friend, neighbor or colleague to the picnic!

See you there!



Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, August 3!

Proposition C

The League of Women Voters of Missouri opposes Proposition C, the health care proposal on the August 3rd ballot that weakens the new federal health care law. The Cole County Circuit Court ruled against the Constitutional challenge to the proposal and it will remain on the ballot, pending any appeal.

The new federal health care law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, provides universal coverage with access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. League supports this law.

Proposition C undermines a key component of this law by allowing Missourians to opt out of buying health insurance without having to pay a penalty. League opposes this proposal.

On August 3rd, vote NO on Proposition C.

Lael Von Holt
Director, Mental Health/Health
LWVMO

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **"Not a Drop to Drink,"** Wed., Aug. 11, 7:00 pm, Library Friends Room
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg.,** Thurs., Aug. 12, 1: 15 pm., Library
- **Board Mtg., Mon., Aug, 23,** 6:30 pm, Boone Electric
- **Picnic & General Mtg.,** Thurs., Aug. 26, 4:30-6:30 pm, Stephens Park
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg.,** Thurs., Sept. 9, 1: 15 pm., Library
- **Constitution Day Panel,** Wed., Sept 15, 7:00 p.m., County Commission Chambers
- **Unit Mtg. of local/state ballot issues, Wed., Sept. 22,** 7:00 p.m., location tba
- **Unit Mtg. of local/state ballot issues, Thurs., Sept. 23,** 12 noon., location tba
- **Sustainable Living Fair,** Sun., Sept. 26
- **Board Mtg., Mon., Sept. 27,** 6:30 pm, Boone Electric

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



This has been a busy summer! Both the Civil Liberties and Education Committees have been planning exciting events for the fall – the Education Committee's plans are described on the next page and the Civil Liberties Committee is working on its 4th Constitution Day program with the focus this year on the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision that eliminated spending limits on corporations and labor unions in elections. Voter Service presented a very successful Candidate/Issue Forum in mid-July that was especially good at showing the similarities and differences between the candidates – if you were unable to attend, please check out KOPN to listen to the forum and, if you have Mediacom cable, it is being shown on channel 22 now.

The state board has also been active. See below for the new committee to promote civil discourse (and volunteer or suggest someone else!). LWVMO is also exploring the possibility of hosting a debate this fall for the US Senate candidates. It has also distributed a press release on health care reform (see front page) and, if necessary, will be fighting the effort to eliminating the Non-partisan Court Plan this fall.

Although a few of us have been very busy, we need your help, too. The League is only as strong as its volunteers. Whatever your circumstances, please consider volunteering to help with a task with one of our committees. New opportunities to become involved a lot or only a little come available all the time.

Linda Kaiser
President

Civil Discourse?

At the July state board meeting, members set plans for the coming year. One of the ideas put forward was 'civil debate' or 'civil discourse.' If you remember, at our last candidate forum our own president asked a candidate about 'civil discourse'. His answer was a little shocking and that started the idea of perhaps seeing what a league could do within a state or community.

Said Shawn Klein, philosophy professor at Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois: "The rub is that civil and rational discourse is a two-way street. Both sides have to be civil and rational for such engagement to occur."

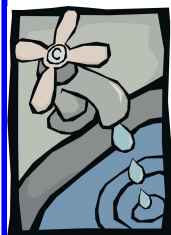
We all basically understand what the term 'civil debate' means, but the idea is to implement and begin to bring it more into the public's consciousness. That's the task - promoting civic discourse. But how? A media blitz; public awareness or League awareness?

Let me know if anyone in your league is interested in working on this and send me name, email and telephone. We'll meet by email, phone and probably in the November statewide meeting. You can reach me at 256-2803 or elaineblodgett@gmail.com.

This is an exciting and new frontier for those of us interested to figure out how to reach out to the rest of the country or a fool's errand----- Let's give it a try

Yours in discourse, Elaine Blodgett

Is Water an Issue?



Ken Midkiff will be here to talk about his book "Not a Drop to Drink: America's Water Crisis (and what you can do)" which details the current state of emergency facing the U.S. water supply. Midkiff served on the board of directors of Concerned Citizens for Clean Water, was the Co-Chair of the National Clean Water Network, and was the director of the Sierra Club Clean Water Campaign. He lives in Columbia and writes a regular column in the Columbia Daily Tribune. The League is sponsoring the following program with the Columbia Public Library

Where?
When:

Friends Room, Columbia Public Library
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 11

The Department of Peace Study: What Happened?

The first day was spent learning the Convention rules and process. We also distributed 500 invitations to our Saturday (second day) evening Caucus which about 50 people attended out of 625 delegates.

At the caucus I presented the Department of Peace as a program which practiced the "preventive medicine" of violence prevention. I said we had effective programs, police & military, to respond when violence occurred but that we had no well developed programs to prevent the development of violence. Prevention is not a new concept here but it is not a major focus. I suggested that we were about 50 years behind medical practice in focusing on prevention and interacting to interrupt the escalation of violence. I pointed out that the emphasis in the suggested program for the Department of Peace was on prevention of violence within the U.S. Someone else stated that the CDC had declared that there is an epidemic of violence in the U.S. The "prevention" analogy seemed to be very well accepted.

Sunday I had the opportunity to propose the "not recommended" item of a Study of the Department of Peace. Fortunately there were several "questions for clarification" which permitted me to mention some of the talking points despite this being a time at which "discussion" of the issue is not permitted. A voice vote was taken and ruled that the Department of Peace Study would not be added to the agenda, although the "For" votes were enough that some individuals thought that it had carried. It was certainly not a consensus response either way.

I certainly learned a great deal about working within the League process at the National Convention. I also obtained a list of individuals who indicated an interest in serious work on this to bring it to the next convention in 2012 and now have a working "committee" of about 15 people nation wide starting to work on the next round.

Dick Parker
Chair

Hot News From Your Education Committee

Delivering action-oriented programs targeting younger women (and men) and their school-aged children is the new multi-year focus of your Education Committee. The purpose is to promote citizen participation, engage these persons in League activities, and promote membership in the League.

Specifically, the committee has identified civics education as a first topic and is working on the first of several methods for engaging the identified audiences. In October, the group will convene about 15-20 individuals and groups for a roundtable research discussion to inform Committee and League members on the status of civics education in schools, youth groups, and civic clubs. We will be listening for curriculum, delivery mechanisms, and potential gaps in the delivery of civics learning.

The Education Committee has also researched the KidsVoting Program. Members recently heard about the program from its originator, Sandy Diamond. Although it appeared too early in our process to make any decisions about this specific program, members will track it, as it will be unfolding soon in Kansas City.

Establishing a stronger presence and awareness of the League within the community is also an aim. The expanded outreach will be a stepping stone to advancing the League mission, increasing membership, and increasing voter participation. The first step in this direction is participation in local parades and events. Participation in the M. U. Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 23rd is being planned. All members are invited to participate.

A new study topic has emerged from the National League: *Role of the Federal Government in Public Education*. The study would be completed in 2011-12, and some Education Committee members will be involved.

If you'd like to join the Education Committee, contact Holly Burgess at hburgess8@yahoo.com or Zona Sharp-Burk at z.burk@mchsi.com.



Upcoming Events from Energy Matters Committee

Sustainable Living Fair 2010

The SLF will be held again at the Columbia College Student Commons. Sunday September 26 is the date and 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. is the time. There are always workshops and speakers and many informative booths. The Energy Matters Committee will have one of them. More details next month. Mark the date on your calendar to come and learn!


Would you like to learn more about environmentally friendly construction? Tour LEED recognized City Hall

Come to a tour of the new City Hall being lead by Barbara Buffaloe, Columbia's Sustainability Manager. Tuesday evening, September 28, she will lead a tour and discussion session at 7:30. Only about 25 individuals can fit into a tour so please register with me (Dick Parker) at rbparker1@centurytel.net or call me at 256-4397. Barbara, as a LEED certified professional, is extremely knowledgeable about the entire range of green aspects of construction and building for energy efficiency. She is a very engaging speaker. Register NOW.

Dick Parker
Co-Chair

Welcome to our newest members of our League:

Katherine Bergmann, 404 S. Cedar Dr., 65203
 Linda Lowenberg, 210 Russell Dr., 65203
 Ann Mericle, 115 W. Main, Hartsburg, 65039
 Marion Mace Dickerson, 3651 S. Ben Williams Rd., 65201



CAT-TV Opportunity



If you are interested in producing, directing and working as a host on League CAT TV shows this year, call Elaine Blodgett at 256-2803 or email at elaineblodgett@gmail.com. Several programs have been suggested by our board, with interesting ideas and exciting topics we can work with. Holly Burgess has volunteered to work on the committee, so join us. The meeting time will be set when we have a few more people interested.

Patient Protection & Affordability Act

LWV actively supported the passage of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordability Act. Following are some resources that provide information on what is involved in the act as well as the timeline as to when various provisions will become active.



- Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org): Among other things, it has a simplified summary of the bill and an implementation timeline.
- AARP (www.aarp.org): Provides information and a summary of tax changes.
- Health Care for America Now (www.healthcareforamericanow.org): Provides some information by categories (e.g. seniors, families, small businesses)
- Health and Human Services (www.hhs.gov): Provides information by the federal government on the act.
- League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org): Background papers on the issue are helpful.

Public Education Study Committee – Application Form

In accordance with the approval of delegates at Convention 2010, LWVUS will undertake a study of the “Federal Role in Public 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 the government. Members of the committee will be responsible for developing study materials and consensus question, participating in reviewing/ tabulating all of the responses submitted by participating Leagues, and based on those, recommending position language to the Board.



Application Deadline is August 16, 2010.

Requirements for Study Committee membership:

Persons appointed to a LWVUS Study Committee must:

- Be members of the League;
- Have League experience;
- Be involved in their local or state League;
- Represent the diversity of the League, as much as possible;
- Provide three references, one of whom must be the president of their local or state League;
- Have expertise in the area of the study;
- Have research, writing and editing experience;
- Have a proven ability to work within a team.

Once appointed the following procedures apply:

- The Study Committee shall generally meet by phone and email;
- The LWVUS chair of the Study Committee or her/ his designee shall provide an agenda for each Committee meeting;
- A record shall be kept of meetings of the Study Committee by the chair or her/ his designee;
- A timeline for the Study shall be developed and reported to the Board and to the membership, if appropriate;
- Written materials prepared by the Study Committee shall be edited for substance and accuracy by the Committee members;
- All communications regarding the study progress and process will be announced by the LWVUS Board.

Individual members of the Study Committee shall be responsible for:

- Attending all meetings of the Study Committee unless excused;
- Agreeing to the goals and timeline of the Study Committee;
- Executing the Study Committee agreement as to control of any written material prepared by the Study Committee;
- Meeting Study Committee deadlines for research and delivery of written material; and
- Ensuring the substantive accuracy of the text and all citations of written materials.

For more information and the on-line application form, go to www.lwv.org and click on the Members tab.

The United States of America is 234 years old today. When you look at our history in the context of world history America is just a CHILD among the nations. Egypt, China, Japan, Rome, Greece all make America's history seem so short. Consider what a brief time we've really been here as a nation: When Thomas Jefferson died, Abraham Lincoln was a young man of 17. When Lincoln was assassinated, Woodrow Wilson was a boy of 8. By the time he died Ronald Reagan was a boy of 12. The lives of four men can take you all the way back to the beginning of our country.

Dr. Norm Mowery, Pastor, The Church of the Wayfarer, July 4, 2010

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial



"Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?" Those were the last public words of the icon of the suffragist movement, Inez Millholland Boissevain. It was 1916 - four years before women won the right to vote. The question for women today might be, "How long must women wait for a memorial to honor those who suffered for the cause?"

It's been nearly 90 years since women in the United States won the right to vote. Yet there is no memorial to the suffragists who were responsible for turning the public tide in favor of the 19th Amendment. A group of volunteers is trying to change that with help from the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). The group's leader, Jane Barker, says the goal is to raise between two and four million dollars to build the Turning

Point Suffragist Memorial.

The history books rarely detail the abuse and humiliation that women endured in their efforts to win the right to vote. The 72-year struggle for women's suffrage called for personal sacrifice from many, but some say the biggest toll was suffered by those who became the first picketers ever at the White House. Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, co-founders of the National Women's Party, were frustrated with the slow pace of state-by-state efforts to win women's suffrage. Influenced by their British counterparts, the women organized protest marches and then in 1917, the "silent sentinels."

At first the stoic and silent women standing at the White House gates were ignored, but eventually more than 160 of them were arrested on charges of "obstructing free passage of the sidewalk." Most were taken to the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton, Va., where they endured beatings and unsanitary conditions. It was not uncommon for them to eat maggot-infested food. Some went on hunger strikes, so they were repeatedly force-fed. Once news of the abusive treatment leaked out, telegrams poured into the White House. It was said to be the turning point in the movement. President Woodrow Wilson wasn't "waiting" anymore. He responded by introducing the Susan B. Anthony Amendment which was ratified as the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920.

An all-volunteer committee is working to create a memorial in Occoquan Regional Park across the street from where the Occoquan Workhouse once stood. The project began as a partnership between the **League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area** (LWVFA) and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. For two years LWVFA worked to help lay the groundwork. Soon it became evident that the effort had grown beyond the scope of the local League to a national perspective. Seven members of the local League still serve on the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Committee. LWVFA is a leading partner along with other organizations such as the American Association of University Women. Several League publications, namely "Remember the Ladies" and *Virginia Women and the Vote* by LWVFA's Bernice Colvard are used extensively by the committee for reference. The **League of Women Voters of Virginia** is helping by publicizing the effort.

The conceptual design plan for what is hoped to be a national memorial was unveiled by Robert Beach of Robert E. Beach Architects, LLC, during a recent fundraising event. The Silent Sentinel Award Reception honored White House journalist Helen Thomas as a trailblazer for gender equality. Thomas supports the construction of the memorial and calls it a "tremendously worthy cause."

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will consist of a garden, nineteen interactive vignettes detailing suffragist history and a water feature. *Newsweek* columnist, Eleanor Clift, an honorary sponsor, says the memorial will serve as a "silent sentinel" for the suffragists who were held at Occoquan. Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell stated that the memorial "will ensure that the stories of these brave women are told in a compelling and enduring way, accessible for generations to come." She added that "we simply cannot leave to chance the remembrance of this important chapter in our nation's history."

The plan is to have the memorial fully installed by 2020 — the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Organizers believe the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will help educate those who are not aware of the sacrifices that were made for women to gain the right to vote.

Nancy Lyons Sargeant, freelance writer and radio broadcaster, "Remembering the Ladies" Who Helped Gain the Vote.

Produced by the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Foundation, the LWV of Virginia and the LWV of the Fairfax Area. For more information, go to www.suffragistmemorial.org.

Officers

President: Linda Kaiser (474-1407)
1st Vice President: Rachel Brekhus
2nd Vice President: Carol Schreiber
Secretary: Joni O'Connor
Treasurer: Liz Schmidt

Board Members & Committee Chairs

Budget: Shirley Troth
Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen
Communications: Maydell Senn
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
League Presents: Elaine Blodgett
Membership: Linda Lenau Brown & Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
Nominating: Sarah Wolcott
Peace: Dick Parker
Special Events: Jane Ellen Ashley
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. (An "11" after your name indicates paid for 2011. A 2011 renewal membership form and envelope will be included in the September Voter.)

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.

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

P.O. Box 239

Columbia, MO 65205

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

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

August 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Primary Election	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 "Not a Drop to Drink" 7 pm, Library	12 Civil Liberties Com., 1:15 pm, Library B	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Board Mtg., 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Community Room	24 CAT3-TV Taping	25	26 Fall Picnic, 4:30-6:30 pm, Stephens Park Women's Equality Day	27	28
29	30	31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4
Sept. 5	Sept. 6 Labor Day	Sept. 7	Sept. 8	Sept. 9 Civil Liberties Mtg.	Sept 10	Sept 11