



# The Voter

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

## ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED FOR APRIL 10: FEATURED SPEAKER WILL BE VICKI RUSSELL, PUBLISHER OF COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

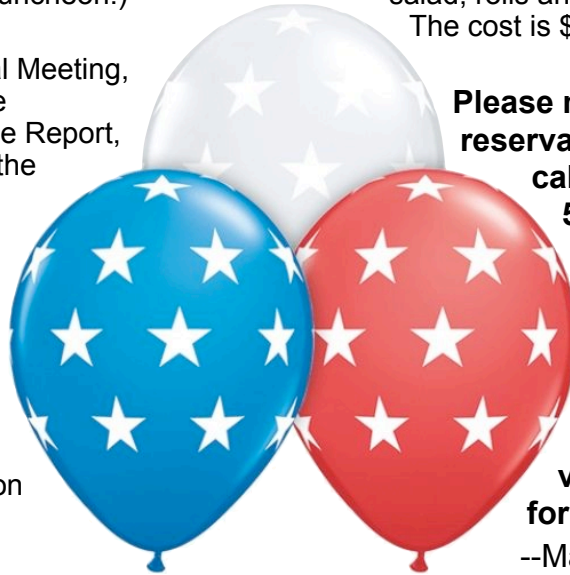


We hope you will join your LWV friends at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 10th at the Columbia Country Club (off Old 63). Vicki Russell will be our featured speaker and her topic will be "The World Needs the League of Women Voters and Newspapers More Than Ever." (We are so happy to be able to hear Vicki Russell at this time, since we had to cancel our December luncheon.)

Social time will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. We will have plated service, offering either Chicken Marsala (with salad, potato, vegetable, rolls, dessert) or Vegetarian Lasagna (with salad, rolls and dessert). The cost is \$25.



Since this is our Annual Meeting, we will be voting on the Nominations Committee Report, a bylaws change, and the proposed budget for 2014-15. We will also be presenting the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League to one of our exemplary members, Lael Von Holt! You can read more about Lael on page 2.



**Please make reservations by**

**calling Liz Schmidt at 573-445-0665 or send check payable to LWVCBC to Liz Schmidt, 1700 Forum Boulevard, #3101, Columbia, MO 65203. Be sure to specify whether you want the chicken or vegetarian option. Deadline for Reservations: March 31.**

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President

## PERSPECTIVES ON THE WAR ON POVERTY AFTER 50 YEARS: CAT TV APRIL 9



The LWV CAT TV show on April 9th will examine the War on Poverty after 50 years. Panel members are Jeannette Mott Oxford, executive director of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, Dr. Tracy Greever-Rice, Director of MU Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED), and Wiley Miller, psychologist. Jim Robertson, managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune will moderate.

CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 601. The program will be available on our website a few days after April 9th or at [www.columbiaaccess.tv](http://www.columbiaaccess.tv). The replays on CAT TV are 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

## MARCH BOARD REPORT

The Board is pleased to announce that we selected Lael Von Holt for the Eleanor Goodge Award. Lael will receive the award at our Annual Meeting on April 10th. We hope you will come to the event and congratulate her. Please see the article in this Voter for all the wonderful work Lael has done for the League.

The Board approved Ed Funds for the July 21st Candidate/Ballot Issue forum.

The rest of the meeting was spent reviewing the ag study consensus, the Sunshine Coalition event and the March 18th Candidate/Ballot Issue forum. And we made final plans for the Annual Meeting and Mental Health forum for May 20th. The Board also decided not to plan any Learn and Share meetings for April or May.

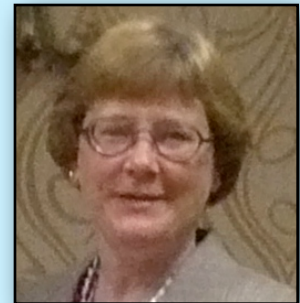
Since Midge Pinkerton was unable to attend the meeting, we signed and will send a Thank You card for her long-time service on the Board.

This was the final Board meeting for these board members. After the election at our Annual

Meeting, we will schedule a planning workshop for the new board. At this workshop we will complete a list of activities for June 2014 to March 2015. Please, let me know if you have suggestions or ideas for topics for forums or our small group meetings (the name will probably be changed from Learn and Share to Lunch and Learn).

Marilyn and I would like to thank our Board members for their time and hard work over the past 12 months.

Carol Schreiber  
Co-President




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## THE 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE IS LAEL VON HOLT

Lael Von Holt has gone above and beyond ordinary service to the League and to the citizens of the State. Lael served as president of the Columbia-Boone County League and as a member of our Board for perhaps more than thirty years and has also served as a member of the LWVMO Board for many years. So often we have asked for volunteers for various projects and we can count on Lael to raise her hand to volunteer right away.

But in a singular way, Lael has devoted countless hours in the quest to obtain proper health care services for people with mental illness, using the platform of the League as the springboard. The subject of mental health is complicated and it is critical to keep everyone informed in a careful and thoughtful manner,

something that Lael excels at. She set it as her mission to stay informed about the subject, and to keep everyone else informed, from the local to the state level. In addition to serving as an official League observer of the Boone County Mental Health Board, she led the way to bringing numerous informative programs with excellent speakers on various aspects of the subject to the citizens of Boone County. She has encouraged League members to not only be informed but to get involved. A true Leaguer in every way.

With her quiet dignity, compassion and great wisdom, we have been very fortunate to have Lael as an exemplary leader for the League.

--Marilyn McLeod, Co-President

## BOARD NOMINATIONS UP FOR VOTE AT APRIL 10 ANNUAL MEETING

<b>At the meeting, we will be voting on the following officers and board members:</b>	One Year Term on the board (2014-2015): Susan Marshall
Carol Schreiber - co-president - 2014-2016 Marilyn McLeod - co-president - 2014-2015	Continuing on the board as appointed members (2014-2015): Diane Suhler Lael Von Holt Dick Parker
Ava Fajen - 2nd vice-president - 2014-2016	
David Leuthold - treasurer - 2014-2016	Nominating committee (2014-2015) Linda Brown, chair Marie Scruggs Sarah Wolcott Twaddle
Two Year term on the board (2014-2016): Sharon Schneeberger, Mahree Skala Jan Swaney	

## VOTER ID: LWVMO SENDS LETTER TO STATE SENATORS

*The letter below was recently sent to all Missouri State Senators by Elaine Blodgett, President of the League of Women Voters of Missouri, on behalf of the Missouri LWV*

Let's talk about the real voting problem in Missouri. Less than 2/3 of registered voters turned out for the November 2012 general election. In the April 2013 local election, St. Louis County reported that approximately 16% of eligible voters showed up to elect mayors and city councilmen, school board members, and to determine important bond issues and tax measures. The proposed constitutional amendment and enabling legislation to allow strict Voter ID requirements is a solution in search of a problem. We need solutions that encourage our citizens to go to the polls, not more obstacles to keep them away! This is why we urge you to vote against Senate bills SJR31 and SB511. These proposals are unnecessary, expensive, and they impede Missourians' basic right to vote.

Current Missouri law requires all voters to show identification at the polls. It provides severe penalties for voter impersonation. Existing legislation clearly works. Not a single case of voter impersonation has been documented in our state. SJR21 and SB511 would be very expensive. The Missouri legislature admits that these proposals would carry a hefty \$9 million price tag. Our state is currently struggling to repair and rebuild a crumbling infrastructure, and attract other quality jobs to Missouri. We can't afford to waste precious resources chasing a problem that doesn't exist.

250,000 Missourians lack a state photo ID. This includes women with name changes, senior citizens who no longer drive, and college students who are embarking on responsible citizenship. Do we really want to make it harder or impossible for these people to participate in our democracy? Will Missouri be better without these voices?

The League of Women Voters of Missouri has long worked to increase voter participation in our state. There is so much we can do together: implement early voting, improve efficiency at polling places, better train poll workers, and use media to urge our citizens to register or update their addresses in order to be ready to participate on election days. Let's work together to solve the real problems and increase our citizens' trust and participation in government.

Let's not waste our time and resources on problems that don't exist. Vote NO on SJR31 and SB511.

## SUNSHINE WEEK FORUM

An audience of about 30 people attended the March 12 forum with attorney Nathan Nickolaus on Missouri's "Sunshine Law" (Ch. 610 RsMo). Every March the National Freedom of Information Coalition, of which the Missouri Sunshine Coalition (MSC) is a member, holds a Sunshine Week to highlight national, state and local efforts to promote open government. This year MSC and LWV, along with our the Columbia Public Library, co-sponsored a forum to commemorate Sunshine Week.

As the son of a Columbia mayor, former municipal attorney for Jefferson City, and author of a book on the Sunshine Law for the Missouri Bar, Nathan Nickolaus has both practical and academic interest in the law's provisions. His informative talk stimulated a lively interchange with the audience. Nickolaus noted that the Sunshine Law is "ever-present in local government," and all government officials should be knowledgeable about it. The law gives citizens access to government meetings and records that in previous years might have been hidden from scrutiny. A simple principle to remember is that meetings and records of government bodies are assumed to be open unless they are specifically authorized to be closed.

Nickolaus clearly explained what constitutes a "meeting" and a "record" under the law, as well as how to make a request for records. He noted that the current law is out of date because of the rapid trend toward electronic communications and document sharing among government officials. For example, if a member of a government body sends an e-mail concerning official business to a majority of the members (including the sender), the e-mail must be copied to the keeper of records for that body.

Those in attendance received copies of a booklet



Attorney Nathan Nickolaus explained Missouri's "Sunshine Law" at the Columbia Public Library on March 12. Forum sponsors were the Missouri Sunshine Coalition, LWV and the library.

on the Sunshine Law published by the Attorney General's office. The same information is available at the Attorney General's website, <http://ago.mo.gov/sunshinelaw/>. Two bills in the General Assembly will, if passed, make revisions to the Sunshine Law. HB 1832 "specifies that the open records and meetings law and its exceptions apply to individual members of the General Assembly." SB 843 makes several specific revisions to the law, including announcements of meetings, keeping of records, and penalties for violations.

Thank you to Nathan Nickolaus, moderator Jim Robertson, Lauren Williams of the Columbia Public Library, and Liz Schmidt of LWV for making this a successful event.

--Peggy Placier  
LWV Missouri Sunshine Coalition Liaison

## OPENING AVAILABLE

Are you looking for a way to help our League, but can't take on a year-long task? Here's a fun activity that will take only an hour and a half of your time.

Help staff the League's booth at Earth Day on Sunday, April 27. Call Win Colwill at 445-4663 to learn more and select your time slot.

The exhibit explains that Missouri plug-in vehicles produce more greenhouse gas than regular hybrid cars because our electricity is generated from coal. This can be offset by installing photovoltaics (PV) at your house. PV is generally a good idea and the federal tax credit covers 1/3rd of the cost.

--Win Colwill and Dick Parker

## OUR HISTORY SERIES #20: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Here's a (pretend) college board question – compare and contrast the League of Women Voters of the 1930's and now.

Since it is time for our Annual Meeting, this is a good time to take a quick look back.

In our archives at the State Historical Society, we discovered copies of an annual multi-page questionnaire required by the state League of Women Voters sent to local chapters to find out what each League was doing (and no doubt to learn from it).

In the report for 1931-32, the Columbia League reported that they did not have a regular board meeting with a fixed date; but they had general membership meetings twice a month from October 1st to April 30, with a set time and location. That year they had an average attendance of 48 at their membership meetings. At these, they would have a short business meeting preceding the program which was planned to educate the members on various topics.

Today we have a monthly board meeting (most months) and a few general membership meetings each year (fall picnic; founders day luncheon; annual meeting), but the majority of our informational meetings – most months of the year -- are designed not just for our members but also for the general public, to meet our goal of providing information to help educate citizens on public policy issues.

Back in 1932, in the Minutes of the local chapter, the secretary quoted George Washington: "In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened." No doubt that we are still in agreement (both with our historic League and George!) on that noble purpose.

The state questionnaire in the 1930's asked what "educational and publicity methods" were used, including possible Institutes of Government and Politics; Citizenship Schools; Study Groups; and special open meetings. We no longer hold Institutes of Government and Politics or Citizenship Schools, but we still have

study groups and, as mentioned above, many open meetings.

In that year, dues were \$1.50 annually and they had 81 members. The questionnaire asked about membership growth and what methods were used to hold and increase membership ("personal solicitation, telephoning, renewal notices, interesting programs, newspaper publicity"). Well, the numbers have grown somewhat (dues are \$55 and membership is about 150), but ideas about how to grow and retain members are pretty much the same, although we are always looking for new ideas.

Their committees included: Effectiveness in Government; Child Welfare; Education; Living Costs; Women in Industry; Social Hygiene; Legal Status; International Cooperation; Membership; Finance; and Publicity. Committees have morphed over the years but currently our committees include Civil Liberties, Energy, Education, Health, Mental Health, Voter Service, and Membership. Some overlap there.

Back in the 30's, publicity for that relatively new organization was very important. Local Leagues were asked to count the number of newspaper inches of publicity they had the previous year. In 1932, it was reported that "this year's work of the Columbia League of Women Voters was sufficiently worthy of attention to occupy 650 inches of newspaper space." Although we no longer count inches of publicity, we certainly are always pleased to get coverage of our events, letters to the editor, or op-ed pieces. Of course, we have added other means of publicity, including TV, website, Facebook. These last are ephemeral, so let's be sure to retain copies of the print items.

Thankfully, someone kept records back then and gave them to the State Historical Society for safekeeping.

If you come to the upcoming Annual Meeting on April 10 (and we hope you will!), we will distribute a handout compiling our work this year to let you know how much we do. We hope you plan to attend!

--Marilyn McLeod, Historian





**Upcoming League Events!**



APRIL 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 <b>APRIL</b>	2 <b>Energy Matters Committee</b> 1:30 pm Library Room A	3	4 <b>Fundraising Committee</b> 2:00 pm Library Friends Room	5 <b>LWVMO Spring Council</b> Springfield, MO
6	7	8 <b>Equal Rights Action Day</b> at the Capitol, Jefferson City	9 <b>CAT TV War on Poverty</b> 7:00 pm	10 <b>LWVBCB Annual Mtg</b> Columbia Country Club 6:00pm	11	12
13	14 <b>Voter Service Committee</b> 6:30 pm Library Friends Room	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <b>Earth Day Booth</b>	28	29	30 <b>Paul Pepper</b> 8:50AM KBIA	1 <b>MAY</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <b>CAT TV</b> 7 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20 <b>LWV Forum: Mental Health</b> Library	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Contact Information

**LWV Officers:**

Co-Presidents:  
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500) and  
 Carol Schreiber (657- 1467)  
 1st VP: Liz Schmidt (445- 0655)  
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424- 6683)  
 Secretary: Marcia Walker  
 (443-8666)  
 Treasurer: Susie Liu (442-0313)

**LWV Board Members:**

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
 Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)  
 Sue Breyfogle (474-7977)  
 Holly Burgess (449-0625)  
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)  
 Dick Parker (256-4397)  
 Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)  
 Peggy Placier (442-2996)  
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)  
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)  
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

**LWV Committee Chairs:**

Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod  
 Education: Peggy Placier  
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker  
 Health: Jan Swaney (442-3172)  
 Membership: Liz Schmidt  
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt  
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held on the  
 4th Monday of the month. All  
 members are welcome to attend.



### Membership Application

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2014 it is time to do so! Please send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. Thanks to all LWV members for renewing your membership promptly!

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 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.)

**Websites:**

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



**Holly Burgess remains in St. Louis recovering from some health issues.** She is doing well and gaining strength and energy. As you recall, her husband David died earlier this year. You can write to her at this address:

Holly Burgess  
 C/O Jill Muth  
 9435 Sunny Creek Lane  
 Sunset Hills, MO 63127

**Pam Springsteel** is doing well in her recovery from a recent fall.



**League of Women Voters**

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

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## **MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT COMING TO TOWN JUNE 11TH**



It's coming to Columbia Entertainment Company in June and you know what that means. Put the date of June 11th on your calendar. Why? Because it's the first local production here in Mid-Missouri of the Tony Award Best Musical of the 2004-2005 season, Monty Python's SPAMALOT. More importantly, it's League's one and only fundraiser of the year.

Neither Stephens College nor the University of Missouri nor Capital City Players nor Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre have yet staged this hilarious tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. In case you may have missed the traveling company at Jesse Hall last year, now you'll have the opportunity to see the premier Central Missouri produced performance live at Columbia

Entertainment Company while supporting your League of Women Voters.

The League has rented the 'house' for the evening and with your help we can fill it with a lively audience. That's you and your friends and family and anyone else with a ticket. Drinks and refreshments, provided by restaurants and by members of LWV, will be served in the lobby starting at 6:30 p.m.

After a brief introduction by the director of the musical, the curtain goes up at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices remain at \$25 each or 5 for \$100 which gets your name on the list of Underwriters, or not, if you so wish. Tickets will be available soon.

Win Colwill, Fundraising Committee Chair

**LOOK INSIDE FOR A COMPLETE CALENDAR  
OF UPCOMING EVENTS ON PG 6**