



The Voter

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

APRIL 11: CIVIC EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



LWV has long been concerned about educating the public on the importance of political decisions, building on a foundation of knowledge we hoped was constructed in the public schools. Preparing citizens was once a central purpose of the American public schools. But is citizenship education still important today?

If these questions concern you, come to a public forum on April 11 at 7:00pm (refreshments at 6:30) at the Columbia Public Library. A panel will discuss how public schools today prepare students as citizens and voters, the state of civic education, and directions for the future in a digital era. Audience questions and discussion will follow the presentations.

Our speakers will be: Dr. Susan Adler, professor emerita, UMKC, and past president of the Council for the Social Studies; Nicholas Kremer, Social Studies and Language Arts Coordinator, Columbia Public Schools; and Terry Schlemeier, retired consultant with Terry Schlemeier & Associates of Jefferson City. Vena Long, chair of the LWVCBC Education Committee, will moderate.

Co-sponsors are the Council for the Humanities, AAUW - Columbia Branch, and the Daniel Boone Regional Library.

We hope this forum will foster a dialogue aimed at promoting the positive engagement of students regarding the "office of citizen."

— Vena Long & Peggy Placier

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON APRIL 19!



All members (and their guests) are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the LWVCBC membership on April 19, 6:00pm (gathering beginning at 5:30, dinner at 6:00), at the Columbia Public Library Friends Room.

RSVP by April 15: Cost for dinner is \$15 per person. Send your check for the correct amount (based on the number attending) to League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia MO 65205. In the memo line, indicate "Annual Meeting." If you want to pay at the door, contact Marilyn McLeod by April 15 at marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com or 573-445-3500 to reserve a spot.

No reservations will be accepted after April 15. Please, no walk-ins.

Voting. As explained in the March Voter, at this meeting attendees receive an annual report of our activities. We have been busy! Voting members will vote on board members/officers, next year's budget, and policy changes. For copies of the budget,

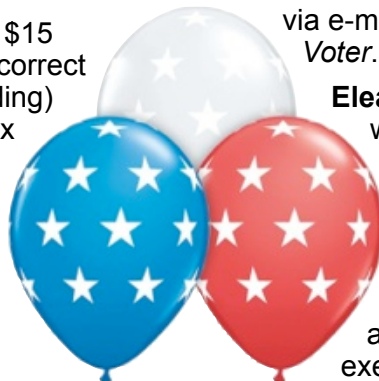
bylaws changes, and the change to 501c3 status see the March Voter. We will have copies at the meeting, but it is great if you look these over beforehand. We have sent you the slate of board members and officers for 2017-2019 via e-mail or mail. The slate is also included in this Voter.

Eleanor Goodge Award. The Annual Meeting will celebrate conferral of the Eleanor Goodge Award to Elaine Blodgett. See page 5 for an article about Elaine and why she undeniably merits this award.

Speaker. We are excited to have Tom Warhover of the MU School of Journalism as our guest speaker. Warhover was executive editor of the *Columbia Missourian* from 2001-2017, a time of momentous changes in his field. He will speak on the thought-provoking topic of relationships among journalism, politics, and politicians today.

Please come to participate in LWV decisions and to enjoy the company of other members!

— Peggy Placier



BOARD MEETING REPORT

March was another busy month, with a candidate forum and a very successful workshop on “Crafting Your Message to Elected Officials”. The latter tapped into growing public interest in contacting legislators at both the national and state levels – and most important, being heard. The panel included representatives from Senator Claire McCaskill and Representative Vicki Hartzler’s offices – nonpartisanship in action – as well as LWV members Marilyn McLeod and Nancy Copenhaver. As a result of the workshop, we now have a brochure on the topic to distribute to the public. Thank you to Carol Schreiber and Marilyn McLeod for putting the brochure together. There is a great demand for it.

At the March 27 Board meeting:

- We approved Dick Parker’s request for funding for our booth at Earth Day, which will dramatically illustrate the extent of global warming.
- We heard the latest on implementation (or nonimplementation) of the recently passed Missouri Voter ID legislation. Sharon Schneeberger has been faithfully keeping up with the process.
- We made plans for summer events on running for office (can we talk any of our members into it?) and mental health issues among the homeless.

- We approved the slate of officers and board members to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- Elaine Blodgett was declared this year’s recipient of the Eleanor Goodge Award by acclamation.

And of course we will have our major fundraiser, the musical “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” with the Columbia Entertainment Company on June 7. Pam Springsteel and the Fundraising Committee are already hard at work. More information about selling tickets and providing food donations will be coming to you soon. It is so much fun!

Planning for the Annual Meeting always encourages us to reflect on the past year’s accomplishments and events. Please come on April 19 to hear about what we have done, thanks to the support of our members. Few volunteer groups in our community provide such public service.

— Peggy Placier and Diane Suhler
Co-Presidents



APRIL 12 CAT TV: CROWDSOURCE FUNDING

The April 12th “League Presents” CAT TV program will feature a discussion of crowdfunding. Our speaker, Gene Gerke, has been Management Consultant of CSX LLC since 1977, and serves as President of Gerke & Associates. He does executive consultations, business analysis, application of new technology, and business planning. He has also developed several computer-based simulations used for management development. Mr. Gerke’s recent work has also included financing of entrepreneurial and start-up operations through

Angel Investing and Crowdfunding sources. Jim Robertson, managing editor of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, will be our moderator.



The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on March 8. The program will be available on our website or at 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. CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.

— Carol Schreiber & Diane Suhler

FINAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS: DELIVERY OF VOTER

After this issue, we will send *The Voter* by post **only if it is requested (or the member doesn’t have email service)**. For more information see page 9.

BOARD NOMINATIONS UP FOR VOTE AT APRIL 19 ANNUAL MEETING

At the meeting, we will be voting on the following officers and board members:

1st Vice-President: Sharon Schneeberger

Secretary: Carol Schreiber

Directors:

Elaine Blodgett
Barbara Hoppe

Vena Long
Marilyn McLeod
Gayla Neumeyer
Pam Springsteel
Shirley Troth

Nominating committee (2017 -2018):

Sharon Schneeberger, chair
Ellen Atkins
Vicki Hobbs

MAY 16 LUNCH & LEARN: THE CHILDREN’S GROVE



In recognition of Mental Health Month, our Lunch & Learn program for May 16 will feature a panel of speakers for The Children’s Grove, including Dr. Anne Deaton, Interim Chair and co-founder of The Children’s Grove.

Children’s Grove is both a location (part of Stephens Park) and an outreach/education program to benefit children’s mental health. As the Children’s Grove website says, “Children’s Grove is building positive behavioral health through education, the arts, and visual reminders of the importance of kindness, respect and inclusivity throughout our community.” LWVCBC has been a supporter of Children’s Grove and its programs since the beginning.

Dr. Deaton will speak to the remarkable commitment of this voluntary, action-oriented organization to our community’s youth and to promoting mental health awareness, nurturance

and safety through education, the arts, signature plantings of crab apple and magnolia trees, support of Youth Mental Health First Aid and Youth Ambassador Programs, community engagement, and a Culture of Kindness. Others featured on the panel will speak to their particular role in these on going activities.

"A Single Act of Kindness Can Change a Life Forever" is a symbol that reflects their commitment.

Join us at noon on Tuesday, May 16, in the second floor community room of the Conley Rd HyVee. Let’s have a good crowd!

To find out more about Children’s Grove, including how to donate, see <https://www.childrensgrove.com/>

— Lael Von Holt

EARTH DAY APRIL 23: PLEASE VOLUNTEER. OUR WORK IS URGENT!

Columbia celebrates Earth Day with a downtown festival on Sunday April 23 from 12-5:00. We need people at the booth to answer questions about our Global Warming message and LWV. If you can help, contact Dick Parker, phone 256-4397 or email rbparker1@centurytel.net. Schedules are flexible.

Here is our message for this year:



- 2016 was the hottest year on record.
- 16 years in this century have been among the hottest 15 years on record (there are some ties in these figures).
- Five of those years have been the hottest year on record up to that year.

We will have information about LWV available, and this is a relaxed, friendly place to recruit new members.

— Dick Parker

UPDATE ON VOTER PHOTO ID

The coalition formed to oppose Amendment 6 has continued to meet via telephone.

This update includes:

- The process for voting in the upcoming April election,
- Department of Revenue responsibilities related to voter registration, and
- Groups working on making voting accessible to all Missourians.

April Voting

The new Voter ID law goes into effect June 1 and does not affect the general election in April. Please know and inform your friends that the procedures you have followed to vote in past elections remain the same. If you would like any additional information about voting in April, see the following:

- <http://www.advancementproject.org/resources/entry/top-10-things-missouri-voters-should-know-for-the-2016-election>
- Missouri Secretary of State's information on *How to Vote*. <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/howtovote#forms>
- Although to vote on April 4 you must already be registered, Wendy Noren, Boone County Clerk, has clear instructions on registration and voting found here- <https://www.showmeboone.com/clerk/QandA.asp>

Department of Revenue Role

Another item of interest regards duties relating to voter registration assigned to the Department of Revenue. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA"), often referred to as "Motor Voter," was passed "to establish procedures that will increase the number of

eligible citizens who register to vote." It requires that state motor vehicle agencies provide voter registration services whenever an individual applies for, renews, or changes the address on a driver's license or state-issued identification card.

Many Departments of Revenue across Missouri have not been carrying out their assigned duties, and there has been no enforcement of those duties. Several groups engaged in voter registration efforts in Missouri are planning to send a pre-litigation notice letter informing the state of DOR's voter registration problems and urging the state to come into compliance with federal law.

Voting rights groups are advocating that DOR change its voter registration practices to comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 in order to create a robust and inclusive democracy. If you wish to read more details regarding the National voter Registration Act, click here <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-national-voter-registration-act>

The Coalition

League members might like to know that, according to Denise Lieberman of the Advancement Project, **the coalition of Missouri groups working together to make sure the vote is accessible to all citizens includes at least 34 organizations statewide** (for a full list see our website at <https://lwvcbc.org>).

Finally, please know the League is committed to all citizens having the right to vote and toward that goal we are working for all citizens to have an equal opportunity to cast their ballots. We will continue to provide updates as details of the voter ID requirement develop in the future.

— Sharon Schneeberger

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: PHOTO VOTER ID
IS NOT IN EFFECT FOR THE APRIL 4TH ELECTION**

ELAINE BLODGETT TO RECEIVE 2017 ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD

At the Annual Meeting we will bestow the Eleanor Goodge Award which recognizes exemplary service to the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County. This year the award goes to Elaine Blodgett, in recognition of her many years of service to our local League as well as leadership at the state level. Her accomplishments date back at least to the early 1980s, including serving as LWVCBC President from 2006-2010 (two terms) and serving twice as state president. In addition to leadership roles, she has served on the Voter Service Committee for many years and has worked on voter registration and tax issues. She was instrumental in developing our monthly CAT TV programs, "The League Presents."

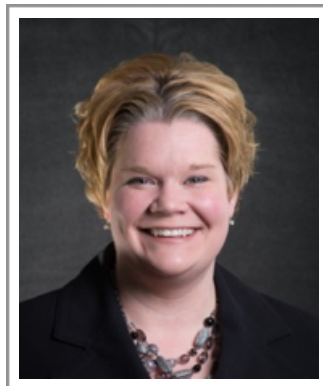


Beyond these accomplishments, her nominators noted Elaine's commitment to the principles of informed, active participation in citizenship and nonpartisanship. One stated, "Elaine is a loyal Leaguer with a lengthy history of intellectual inquiry, personal responsibility, service, and leadership." She has "energized and educated others," nudged us along with humor, and helped us develop into the effective organization we are today. She is also an entertaining speaker who has informed other groups about LWV. Her dedication is such that she has carried on even through serious illness.

We have received so much from Elaine Blodgett's leadership, and now is the time to give back. She is an exceptional recipient for the Eleanor Goodge Award.

MARCH LUNCH & LEARN: THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN MO

We welcomed Emily Johnson, Associate Director of the Institute of Public Policy at MU's Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, to discuss the Status of Women in Missouri report released in 2017. The Institute conducts research in the public interest, in this case contracting with the Women's Foundation of Kansas City to complete the report. The two purposes of the report were to raise awareness and to benchmark progress (or lack of it) since the initial report in 2014. The Institute is nonpartisan and does not engage in political advocacy, although other groups might use the findings to support political action.



Research used for the report included available data (such as the U.S. Census), data that could be generated from other sources, and focus groups of women across the state. The research team also focused on particular categories of women (race/ethnicity, poverty, elderly, veterans, etc.), rather than aggregating all women together. They used a mapping program to show how demographic

categories are distributed across the state. The graphs and maps generated many questions and comments, as we tried to puzzle out explanations for the patterns in our state.

Johnson gave an overview of the leading indicators in five focus areas – Employment and income, Education and child care, Social and economic, Health, Leadership and public engagement. The much-cited income gap between men and women continues, and seems to have plateaued. While the report is divided by topic and demographics, for many women there are compounding effects of race, low income, lack of child care, low access to health, etc. With health care changes looming, gains under the Affordable Care Act cited in this report may be reversed.

Under Leadership and public engagement, we were discouraged to see that only 36% of women voted in the November 2014 election. In addition, there are few women in the Missouri General Assembly. We have work to do.

For those who could not attend, the full report is available at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/545815dce4b0d75692c341a8/t/5880d3d9b8a79bb40766afe8/1484837856403/Status+of+Women+FINAL+1.17.2017.pdf>

— Peggy Placier

MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

The LWVCBC and the Columbia Public Library held a workshop on “Crafting Your Message to Elected Officials” on Wednesday, March 15. About 25 people attended.

We were very pleased to have Kristen Wright, from Sen. Claire McCaskill’s office, and Spencer Tuma, from Rep. Vicky Hartzler’s office, share their insights. Here are some great tips for contacting elected officials on the national level:

- Call the U.S. Representative and Senators’ local district offices to have a better chance of the phone being answered. Your message will still get to your elected official.
- They prefer personal messages as opposed to form letters and mass produced emails.
- Use the House or Senate Bill numbers when writing about legislation.
- You can call as many times as you want. Sen. McCaskill’s office only records zip codes and Rep. Hartzler’s office records your address, so that if you are not in her district they can direct you to your Rep.
- Make clear whether you want the legislator to vote yes or no on a piece of legislation.
- Always be respectful and courteous.
- Most of the work done by the district offices is related to constituents’ issues. So, please contact them if you need help with governmental agencies.

The LWV has prepared a list of tips for contacting elected officials at the federal, state and local levels which will be available on our website (lwvcbc.org) or you can email the League at lwvcbc@gmail.com and we will send you the file. Here are some of the key tips:

Methods of contact: emails are timely and provide a hard copy; letter provides a hard copy, but at the federal level must go through security, so they are not timely; faxes provide a hard copy and can be timely; phone calls are timely and personal, but do not provide a hard copy; if want to meet, be sure to make an appointment.

Messaging Points: One issue per communication; be specific; provide personal experience; do your research to provide facts; be brief – two or three paragraph letters or emails; request action; proofread your message; be courteous; send thank you after receiving response.

Next, Nancy Copenhaver, a former member of the Missouri House of Representatives, spoke about contacting your state legislators:

- State offices do not have fax numbers, so send emails or letters (which do not go through the security procedures required at the federal level).
- Get to know your state and local representatives. Also get to know your state legislator’s legislative assistant; many have worked in the Capitol longer than the legislator.
- State legislative sessions are Tuesday through Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m., so try to call your legislator or stop by their office before session starts.
- Emails are effective communication for state legislators.
- You can testify as a private person at state legislative hearings. You must fill out a form.

For local officials, use the same methods of contact and messaging points. Also, get on their email list and attend informal sessions if they hold them. If you want to speak at a Council meeting, find out the rules. In Columbia you need to register in advance if your issue is not on the Council agenda. If the issue is on the agenda you can usually make a statement for a limited number of minutes.

Here are three important websites to find out what is going on in the federal and state legislatures:

- Congress.gov for the U.S. House and Senate
- house.mo.gov for the MO House
- senate.mo.gov for the MO Senate

Rep. Vicky Hartzler:

Local office: 2415 Carter Lane, Suite 4, Columbia 65201; phone 573-442-9311

For email go to Hartzler.house.gov
2235 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. Claire McCaskill:

Local office: 28 N. 10th St., Columbia 65201; Columbia; phone 573-442-7130

For email go to mccaskill.senate.gov.
Hart Senate Office Bldg., SH-730, Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Roy Blunt

Local office: 1123 Wilkes Blvd., Suite 320, Columbia, MO 65201; phone 573-442-8151

For email go to blunt.senate.gov
260 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

— Carol Schreiber

RECENT LEAGUE EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Gordon Christensen, Randy Morrow, Taylor Burks, Bob Wagner and Richard Shanker are running to fill two Hospital Trustee positions for Boone County on the April 4 ballot.



City Council candidates speaking at the March 14 Forum include, from left to right, Matt Pizer (Fifth Ward) Art Jago (Fifth Ward), Andrew Hutchinson (First Ward), and Pat Kelley (First Ward).



Candidates for the Columbia Board of Education are pictured at left. They include, seated from left to right, Robin Dianics, Jonathan Sessions, Paul Cushing, and Helen Wade.



Speakers for the March 15 "Crafting Your Message to Elected Officials" program, left to right: Nancy Copenhaver, former Missouri House Representative; Marilyn McLeod, LWV/CBC; Spencer Tuma of Rep. Vicky Hartzler's office; and Kristen Wright from Sen. Claire McCaskill's office.



Upcoming League Events!



APRIL/MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	28	29	30	31	APRIL 1
2	3	4 ELECTION LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 CIVIC EDUCATION FORUM Columbia Public Library 7:00 p.m.	12 CAT-TV Crowdfunding 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 ANNUAL MEETING Library Friends Room 6:00 p.m. with social time starting at 5:30 p.m.	20	21	22
23 EARTH DAY Noon to 5	24 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29
30	MAY 1	2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	5	6
7	8	9	10 CAT-TV 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16 LUNCH & LEARN The Children's Grove Conley Rd HyVee Noon	17	18	19	20
21	22 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents: Diane Suhler (443-0549) and Peggy Placier (442-2996)
 1st VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
 Treasurer: David Leuthold (449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
 Meredith Donaldson (289-3015)
 Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

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

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwcabc.org
 State: lvmissouri.org
 National: lvv.org
 Local Voter Information Portal: lwcolumbiamo.turbovote.org
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS:
 DELIVERY OF VOTER**

In order to use our resources wisely, on January 23 the Board voted to approve a new policy for delivering *The Voter*. **After this issue, we will send *The Voter* by post only if it is requested (or the member doesn't have email service).** Any member may request to receive paper copies by contacting Marilyn McLeod at 573-445-3500 or lwcabc@gmail.com. Members without e-mails will, of course, continue to receive paper copies in the mail.

2017 LEAGUE DUES ARE NOW DUE!



Thank you very much for your continued support for our organization. It is greatly appreciated! We are preparing for the upcoming Cat TV programs, Lunch & Learn programs, annual membership meeting, fundraiser play, plus our educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Membership dues are \$65 for individuals, \$100 for a household, and \$25 for local students.

Individual and household memberships also include state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Send to PO Box 239, Columbia, MO. 65205

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.)



The LWV-CBC welcomes
 new member
Colleen Ostercamp.



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

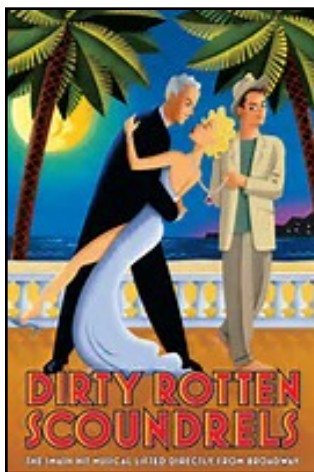
Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LOOK OUT FOR “DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS”

This year’s fundraiser play, in conjunction with the Columbia Entertainment Company, will be held on Wednesday, June 7. Based on the popular 1988 MGM film, “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” is the story of two con men, a beautiful woman and the elite of the French Riviera who collide in this sexy and irreverent farce. This is a hilarious battle of “cons” that will keep audiences laughing, humming and guessing to the end! It has a jazzy score that was nominated for eleven



Tony Awards. We know you will love it!



The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a gala hour of hors d’oeuvres and wine/iced tea provided by local restaurants. The play will start at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will be \$25 each or 5 for \$100 (an option for which you will be recognized as an underwriter).

Watch for additional details (and an invitation to be an underwriter) in your mail and email.

— Marilyn McLeod

CANDIDATE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Do you want to run for office? The League of Women Voters and the Columbia Public Library are planning a workshop on candidate training on Tuesday, July 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library. Former Columbia City



Councilperson Barbara Hoppe and former Boone County Commissioner Karen Miller have agreed to participate. So, mark your calendar for this important workshop!

— Carol Schreiber