



The Voter

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

LEGISLATOR TOWN HALL: FEBRUARY 2



The League of Women Voters invites the public to join us at a Town Hall featuring Boone County state legislators on Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library. Invited legislators include Rep. Cheri Reisch (District 44); Rep. Kip Kendrick (District 45); Rep. Martha Stevens (District 46); Rep. Chuck Basye (District 47) and Sen. Caleb Rowden (District 19). District 50, which includes south Columbia and south Boone County, is vacant.

The Town Hall will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library, with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Scott Christianson will be our moderator. The formal presentations and audience questions will be from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. From 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. audience members will have the opportunity to meet individually with their legislators. The Columbia Public Library is our co-sponsor.

— Carol Schreiber

FREE SPEECH IN A DIGITAL ERA: FEBRUARY 13



A program entitled “Examining Free Speech in the Digital Era” will be held Monday, February 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library. The speakers will include two distinguished scholars from the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy and a local newspaper journalist. They will examine how the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing the rights of free expression, holds up in modern America.

Dr. Adam Seagrave will ask if the meaning of “freedom of speech” as enshrined in the First Amendment is more difficult to apply than ever before. Do the principles that inspired the 18th century authors continue to apply in the era of Facebook, Twitter and digital media?

Dr. Nicholas Drummond will discuss the wider context of free speech. Political philosopher John Stuart Mill believed that truth can only be learned through an open discourse of competing

viewpoints. Drummond will discuss how Mill would respond to those who suggest that some ideas and viewpoints are simply too dangerous to be expressed.

Jim Robertson, Managing Editor of the *Columbia Tribune* will talk about the challenges to traditional journalism with the “democratization of information” via social media and other digital platforms at a time when the industry is working to overcome the disruption to its business model. What role can a journalist play to help sort truth from disinformation?



This program is co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library and complements their Dec. 15 - Feb. 28 exhibit celebrating the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, made possible by the Missouri Humanities

Council in partnership with the National Archives. Light refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

— Marilyn McLeod

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The January 23rd Board meeting began with an update on finances and membership. Currently, there are 134 paid members in our organization. We are pleased to have new members joining our organization and look forward to engaging them in League activities.

Old business included a review of some of our recent activities, including legislator interviews, attendance at the Diversity Breakfast, and the holiday social. We also discussed a number of activities/events planned for the upcoming month, including the Legislative Town Hall on February 2nd and the Bill of Rights Program on February 13th. The Board continues to work on our application for 501c3 status and hopes to have all paperwork completed soon. Once we receive our 501c3 status, we will proceed to add a feature to accept payment for dues, donations, etc. with Paypal.

The Board spent a significant amount of time reviewing current positions of the LWVMO on policy issues to determine if changes/updates were needed. Our feedback will be used by the State Board in its Program Planning on issues related to Government, Fiscal Policy, Judicial System, Natural Resources, Social Policy, and Mental Health.

The LWV has been approached to provide training on effective methods of advocacy. The first

training will be for Tiger Place. Other opportunities may present themselves in the future. The Board also decided to explore expanding our forums in the coming months to include ones which would focus on controversial topics. We welcome member ideas on topics, speakers, etc. for these forums.

A major decision made by the Board concerned delivery of the Voter. Due to cost and logistical issues, the primary delivery method for the Voter in the future will be e-mail. Members will be encouraged to receive the Voter by e-mail. Those without email or preferring a mailed copy will be sent a copy of the Voter by first-class mail.

The activities of the League will be especially important as we embark on a new political and legislative climate. We will need to remain vigilant to insure that the rights of all voters are protected!

— Peggy Placier and Diane Suhler
Co-Presidents



FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County recognizes the many organizations and individuals who have helped us educate the public, provided meeting space and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we recognize a group of our Friends of the LWV as voted on by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County membership at our Annual Meeting on April 25, 2016. For February 2017 we recognize:

- **KFRU radio** for airing our Candidate/Ballot Issue forums. And thanks to **David Lile** and **Renee Hulshof** for moderating our forums.
- **Kyra Moore** for her presentation on Missouri's Clean Power Plan at our January 19, 2016 Lunch and Learn.
- **Nikki McGruder, Traci Wilson-Kleecamp** and **Lynn Maloney** for being on our CAT TV show entitled "Race Matters" on January 13, 2016.
- **Dr. Jack Colwill** for his presentation entitled "Obamacare: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" at our February 16, 2016 Lunch and Learn.
- **Prof. Tony Lupo** and **Terry Cassil** for being on our CAT TV show entitled "Weather Extremes: Preparedness and Response" on February 10, 2016.
- **Dr. Pam Conway** for her presentation on the Cradle to Career Alliance at our March 15, 2016 Lunch and Learn.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

CAT TV FEBRUARY 8: DIVERSITY AWARENESS PARTNERSHIP



Nikki McGruder is the Regional Manager of the Diversity Awareness Partnership – Columbia. The organization supports local diversity and inclusion efforts. They offer three “pillars of impact” to the community: Training and Education, Youth Programs, and Awareness Campaigns. The local program is modeled after one that has been done in the St. Louis community.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on February 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

Nikki will be our guest at the February 8th CAT TV show. Jim Robertson, managing editor of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, will be our moderator.

LUNCH & LEARN FEB. 21: BARBARA BUFFALOE, COLUMBIA SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER



Barbara Buffaloe manages Columbia's Office of Sustainability, which should be called the “Little Office That Could.” With a small staff overseeing sustainability efforts for a growing city, the expectations might have been low. But the city recently received a 3-Star rating from the STAR Community Rating System, a national comprehensive evaluation of community sustainability efforts. In our next

Lunch and Learn program we will hear how the sustainability team and other staff worked to pull this off. Buffaloe will also give us a forecast of the future of sustainability efforts. Be sure to attend on Tuesday, February 21 from noon to 1:00. We will meet at Conley Rd. Hy-Vee (near Sam's Club off East Broadway).

— Peggy Placier

JANUARY LUNCH & LEARN: NANETTE WARD OF CENTRAL MISSOURI STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION

We had a fine turnout for our January Lunch and Learn program on the problem of human trafficking – and yes, it is an issue in our area. Nanette Ward, one of the founding members of the coalition and an expert on this topic, filled the hour with information that left us feeling both more knowledgeable and more alarmed. As Ward noted, it is sometimes difficult to raise awareness on human trafficking because first people need to be convinced it is relevant to them and occurs in their locale. Making that case is one of the roles of the Stop Human Trafficking Coalition. For example:

- Two forms of human trafficking most prevalent today are sex trafficking (women and children entrapped into prostitution and/or pornography) and labor trafficking. Both of them are illegal internationally, federally, and in Missouri. But they still occur in every state and region, urban or rural. In fact, the U.S. is a destination for international trafficking rings; therefore, there must be U.S. “consumers.”
- Of international criminal enterprises, human trafficking is second only to drugs in its profitability. Traffickers include organized crime networks and labor “recruiters.” Forms of labor include door to door sales, construction, nail and hair braiding salons, house cleaning, etc.
- Traffickers target vulnerable or desperate people for exploitation. These include children, minorities, poor, homeless, abuse victims, people with disabilities, foster children, LGBTQ youth, or teens convinced they are being recruited on social media for a career in “modelling” or “acting.”

Another role of the coalition is advocacy for victims. Missouri has had some very high profile cases in recent years, and the coalition has helped with victim recovery. What can you do?

- Become more aware of the people you encounter and whether they are being exploited. Reach out.
- Call if you see something. The coalition website (see below) lists toll free numbers under Report Trafficking and resources in eight mid Missouri counties under Get Help. Call Detective Patrick Corcoran of the Columbia Police Department if you become suspicious.

- Invite the coalition to speak with groups and schools. This information needs to get out to young people.
- Advocate with political leaders for more attention to this issue. LWV does have a national position against human trafficking. We will keep members informed of events related to this issue.

In addition to her talk, Nanette Ward shared many resources that we can consult for more information. Especially if you missed this Lunch and Learn, you will want to take a look:

- Website: <http://www.stophumantraffickingmo.com/> The coalition is also on Facebook.
- *The Weight of Blood*, a novel by Missouri author Laura McHugh.
- Trafficked, a very short documentary available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtd-hpMpcZY>

— Peggy Placier



CANDIDATE FORUM: MARCH 14



The League of Women Voters has scheduled a forum to cover the elections coming up on the April 4 ballot.

Two Columbia City Council seats will be on the ballot. For Ward 1 the candidates are Pat Kelley, Clyde Ruffin and Andrew Hutchinson; and for Ward 5 the candidates are Art Jago and Matt Pitzer. For the Columbia School Board, Helen Wade, Paul Cushing, Jonathan Sessions and Robin Dianics are running to fill three open seats.

Finally, there are two races for the Boone Hospital Board of Trustees: 1-year term: Taylor Burks, Rick Shanker and Bob Wagner; and 5-year term: Randy Morrow and Gordon Christiansen.

The forum will be held at the Columbia Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

— Carol Schreiber

CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS!

The Nominations Committee (Win Colwill, Lucille Salerno, Marcia Walker, Pam Springsteel, Joni O'Connor) has been hard at work finding people to serve on the Board for 2017-2019 as well as a new Co-President (Peggy Placier's term is up). If this is something you have always wanted to do and/or if this is something you think you should do to advance our causes, please contact the committee. The committee chair is Win Colwill, and she can be reached at colwillW@gmail.com or 445-4663.

If the Board is not for you, we also need off-board members who are willing to serve on one of our standing committees. These committees do much of the work you see reported in the Voter. Names listed are current chairs.

- Budget: Shirley Troth
- Civil Liberties: Open position
- Education: Vena Long
- Energy Matters: Dick Parker
- Fundraising: Pam Springsteel

- Health: Mahree Skala
- Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
- Membership: Meredith Donaldson
- Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
- Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

You may volunteer for a committee by sending a note to our gmail account at lwvcbc@gmail.com.

— Peggy Placier



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*. Beginning in April, all members with e-mail addresses will receive The Voter only by email. Any member may request to receive paper copies by contacting Marilyn

McLeod at 573-445-3500 or lwvcbc@gmail.com by March 15. Members without e-mails will, of course, continue to receive paper copies in the mail.

— Peggy Placier



Upcoming League Events!



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	FEB 1 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	2 Legislator Town Hall Library 7:00 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8 CAT-TV Diversity 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13 Bill of Rights Public Library 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Lunch & Learn Barbara Buffaloe Conley Rd HyVee Noon	22	23	24	25
26	27 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	28	MAR 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 CAT-TV Dogs and Cancer Treatment 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	14 Lunch & Learn Conley Rd HyVee Noon Candidate Forum Library 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	28	29	30		

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: lvw.org
 Local Voter Information Portal: lwcolumbiamo.turbovote.org
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

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2017 LEAGUE DUES ARE NOW DUE!



Thank you very much for your continued support for our organization. It is greatly appreciated! If you receive the *Voter* by mail, your label will say (17) if your dues are up to date. We are preparing for the upcoming Town Hall with state legislators, 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 members
Julia and Theodore Fisher,
Anne Miller, and Carol Riesenber.



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD: SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS!

At our annual meeting in April, we will honor a LWV member with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League of Women Voters. If you have someone in mind that is deserving of the award, please send us much more than a name. Send a statement detailing how your nominee meets the following criteria for the award:

- Member of LWV of Columbia-Boone County.
- Exemplary service and a long term commitment to the principles of LWV.
- Primary service should be at the local level, but may include service at the state and/or national level.
- Service goes beyond service in an elected or appointed LWV assignment.

This award does not need to be given each year and may be given posthumously.

Please send your nominations to Peggy Placier at pplacier@centurylink.net by March 1. The board will make a selection at our March board meeting. The award will be presented at our Annual Meeting in April.

— Peggy Placier
