

# LWV<sup>®</sup> The Voter

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

## CAT TV JULY 8: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SALES TAX DISCUSSION



The LWV will not have a forum for the Columbia August Ballot Issue (Capital Improvement Projects Sales Tax), but we will have speakers discuss the issue at our July 8th CAT TV show at 7 p.m. We will look for pro and con speakers. Watch your email for more details.

CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel

Prism 98. The program will be available on our website a few days after July 8th or at [www.columbiaaccess.tv](http://www.columbiaaccess.tv). The show replays on CAT TV at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

## MASS INCARCERATION AND THE SENTENCING PROCESS

Judge Gary Oxenhandler, Circuit Judge for Division II of the 13th Judicial Court, spoke at the May 12th Lunch and Learn on "Mass Incarceration in the United States: the Sentencing Process." The League's Civil Liberties Committee invited the Judge to speak on the plea process, the sentencing decision, and what many consider to be the prison overpopulation problem in the United States.

Judge Oxenhandler was appointed to the court in 2002. He was elected Circuit Judge in 2004 and again in 2010. Division II handles general civil and criminal dockets. Oxenhandler was on the 2000 Judicial and Law Enforcement Task Force; President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce; Co-Chair of the Columbia Race Relations Task Force; and a member of the Boone County Jail Task Force. He now serves as the Acting Chair of the Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission and as a member of the Missouri Supreme Court's Civic Education Committee.

Judge Oxenhandler's presentation explained how the alternative courts are working in Boone County, how plea bargains work and also described sentencing procedures. He had high praise for our public defenders. The event provided a unique opportunity for citizens to ask a judge questions in a public setting.



The League thanks Judge Oxenhandler for his time and for his presentation.

--Carol Schreiber, Co-President

## MAY ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING REPORT

### Equal Access: Influence, Information, Opportunities, Voting – Our Mission

The new LWV Board held a planning meeting on May 14th. At the meeting we reviewed our past year's activities and made decisions about what to continue, what to drop, and what to add. As always, we emphasized that our activities are not limited to the Board and should involve as many LWV and community members as possible. We delegated Diane Suhler to create a theme for this year based on our priorities.

#### Theme for 2015-16:

The Board chose "Equal Access: Influence, Information, Opportunities, Voting" as the theme for the next 12 months.

#### Participation in National Study:

Our main project beginning this summer and extending until February 1 is the Money in Politics national study. Connected with this topic we will also examine the process of amending the U.S. Constitution and whether this is the best response to the effects of the Citizens United decision. Peggy Placier will chair this project, and you are invited to join the planning committee by contacting Peggy at [pplacier@centurylink.net](mailto:pplacier@centurylink.net). Increased local advocacy and public education will also be at the top of our agenda to go along with our Theme.

**Fall Forums:** We will provide specific dates and locations later, but this is the lineup so far.

- Constitution Day forum in September
- Health Effects of GMO's forum in October (co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Health Department)
- Money in Politics forum in November

#### Member and Public Education:

- Lunch and Learn will be held the third Tuesday of each month (September to May) at the south Hy-Vee meeting room at noon.
- CAT TV shows will be on the second Wednesday each month at 7:00 p.m.
- Educational Speakers will be invited to our November Luncheon and April 2016 Meeting.

- LWV will produce a flyer on ex-felons' right to vote, because of a widespread misperception that felons lose their voting rights.
- The LWV will form a Speaker's Group to present information about the LWV and public education information to Columbia area civic groups. If you know of a group that would like to hear about our organization or one of our topics, please contact Carol Schreiber at [carolschrei@gmail.com](mailto:carolschrei@gmail.com).

**Advocacy:** While most of our activities focus on informing the public, our organization also advocates for issues on which we have adopted positions. To that end we plan to:

- Prepare more op-eds and advocacy on local issues such as housing and infrastructure.
- Prepare an op-ed on Money in Politics and the initiative petition on Voter Photo ID.
- Encourage members to apply for boards and commissions and provide information in the Voter.

#### Social Activities:

We also want to build community among our membership and supporters by having fun together. In addition to study, education and advocacy, we will continue our social events including the September picnic, December social and the fundraising play.

Get involved with your League of Women Voters!

Carol Schreiber and Peggy Placier,  
Co-Presidents



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## PROGRESS REPORT ON MONEY IN POLITICS PROJECTS

At the Board Planning Meeting in May, we formed an initial study committee to begin planning for the upcoming national study on Money in Politics and the process of amending the U.S. Constitution (if that is the best approach to the money problem). Members of the group so far are Peggy Placier, Sharon Schneeberger, David Leuthold, Mahree Skala and Carol Schreiber. If you are interested in joining us, please contact [pplacier@centurylink.net](mailto:pplacier@centurylink.net).

At our first meeting:

- We reviewed how a national LWV study works as a grassroots process, sending the consensus from each local up to the national level. A study is based on the idea that informed citizens can understand and construct opinions on complex topics.
- We discussed what events, speakers, films and activities would help the membership and the public become better informed.

As a way to launch a speakers' bureau (a new idea coming out of the Board Planning Meeting), we decided to develop a short PowerPoint

presentation on Money in Politics that could be offered to community groups. This would serve two purposes – educating the public and drumming up better attendance for events.

Peggy Placier reported on her experience as a participant in an online chat group sponsored by the Columbia Daily Tribune with support from the Kettering Foundation on “political fixes” for American democracy. One issue discussed in the wide-ranging conversation was the pros and cons of limiting the influence of “Big Money” and “Dark Money” in politics. If you would like a copy of the reading materials accompanying the forum contact Peggy. To read a transcript of the forum, go to [http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/trib\\_talks\\_forums/](http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/trib_talks_forums/)

Remember – we are just beginning our work and welcome more involvement from members with an interest in this topic.

--Peggy Placier, Co-President

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## 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 are recognizing 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 21, 2015. For June/July 2015 we recognize:

- **Boone County Commission** for allowing us to use the Commission Chambers for our Constitution Day forum.
- **Broadway Christian Church** for allowing us to use their Board Room for our Board Meetings and for hosting our Annual Meeting.
- **Columbia Access TV, Jennifer Erickson, Sean Brown and Justin Gregory** for working with us to produce our monthly public affairs show.
- **Melissa Armstrong, Christine Corcoran, Tim Harlan, Susan Perkins and Kelly Wallis** for being on our panel at the forum entitled “What’s Happening in Mental Health Services for Children and Youth?” in May 2014.
- **Pat Fowler, Skip Walther and Laura Nauser** for being on our CAT TV show entitled “Columbia’s Downtown Infrastructure and Civic Processes” in May 2014.
- Speakers **Drew Brooks** and **Ian Thomas**, and moderator **Randy Picht**, on our CAT TV show entitled “New Bus System: COMO Connect” in July 2014.

**Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!**



**Upcoming League Events!**



JUNE/JULY 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	<b>JUNE 1</b>	2	3	4 <b>LWV on Paul Pepper</b> KBIA 8:50 a.m.	5	6
7	8	9	10 <b>Lucky Stiff Fundraiser</b> <b>CEC</b> 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 <b>LWV Board Mtg</b> 6:30 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<b>JULY 1</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>CAT TV:</b> <b>August Ballot</b> <b>Issues 7:00 p.m.</b>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 <b>LWV Board Mtg</b> 6:30 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	28	29	30 <b>LWV on Paul Pepper</b> KBIA 8:50 a.m.	31	



**LWV Officers:**

Co-Presidents:  
 Carol Schreiber (657-1467)  
 and Peggy Placier (442-2996)  
 1st VP: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)  
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)  
 Secretary: Marcia Walker  
 (443-8666)  
 Treasurer: David Leuthold  
 (449-1358)

**Elected Directors:**

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)  
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)  
 Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)  
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)  
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

**Appointed Directors:**

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
 Dick Parker (256-4397)  
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

**Committee Chairs:**

Budget: Shirley Troth  
 Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod  
 Education: Peggy Placier  
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker  
 Fundraising: Win Colwill  
 Health: Mahree Skala  
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
 Membership: Liz Schmidt  
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt  
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

**Websites:**

Local: lwvcbc.org  
 State: lwvmissouri.org  
 National: lwv.org  
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"



Please send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$25 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.)

**MEMBER NEWS**

We are pleased to welcome new members Melissa Clarke, Marjorie Meredith, Peter Stiepleman and Elizabeth Chang.



Elaine Blodgett, Joni O'Connor, Peggy Placier, Marilyn McLeod and Lael Von Holt at the May LWVMO Convention.



**League of Women Voters**

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Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

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## **HIGH HOPES FOR THE LEAGUE'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER JUNE 10, 2015**

We are expecting a good crowd at our LWV annual fundraiser on June 10th. The League is lucky to partner again this year with the Columbia Entertainment Company as it presents a special benefit performance of the comical mystery farce, "Lucky Stiff," featuring music by the award-winning team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty.

We are also lucky to have so many League members and friends underwriting this event, including Kathryn & Bill Allen, Rachel & Wayne Brekhus, David and Joanne Cowan, Jack & Win Colwill, Ava Fajen & Scott Christianson, Gloria Gesztesy, Leigh Huesgen, David Leuthold, Steve & Joan Mudrick, Marilyn McLeod, John & Joni O'Connor, Peggy Placier, Sharon Schattgen, Liz Schmidt, Sharon Schneeberger, Carol Schreiber, Sean Spence, Michael & Sarah Seat, Ian & Ellen Thomas, Janet & Marge Thompson, Marcia Walker, Hank Waters and Betsey Winnacker.

We appreciate the local restaurants and League members that provided a variety of tempting

appetizers, as well as wine and iced tea. Be sure to thank these fine restaurants and businesses for their generous support: House of Chow, Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, 44 Stone Public House, Broadway Brewery, Room 38 Restaurant & Lounge, Sycamore, Tellers Gallery and Bar, Gerbes Supermarket, Macadoodles and Les Bourgeois Winery.

The Columbia Entertainment Company, Upper Crust, Gerbes and World Harvest Foods deserve our thanks as well for donating Door Prizes for the drawing at intermission.

We will have a complete report and pictures from the play in the August Voter.

The Fundraising Committee includes Ellen Atkins, Linda Brown, Melinda Farhangi, Marilyn McLeod, Joni O'Connor, Liz Schmidt, Pam Springsteel and Win Colwill (chair).

--Win Colwill, Fundraising Committee

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