



The Voter

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

MARCH 21 & 23: CANDIDATE/BALLOT ISSUE FORUMS



The LWV has scheduled two Candidate/Ballot Issue forums for the April elections. The Monday, March 21st forum will feature Columbia School Board candidates Paul Rainsberger, James Whitt, Sarah Dubbert, Joseph Toepke, and Jan Mees. The five candidates are competing for two seats. Dr. Peter Stiepleman, Superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools, will speak in favor of the Columbia Public Schools ballot issues for a 65-cent school levy increase and the no-tax-increase bond issue. If there is organized opposition we will invite a representative.

The Wednesday, March 23rd forum will feature Columbia City Council and mayoral candidates. If

there are any Columbia ballot issues, we will feature those at this forum. Third Ward candidates are Karl Skala and Tom Leuther. Fourth Ward candidates are Ian Thomas and Daryl Dudley. Mayoral candidates are Skip Walther and Brian Treece.

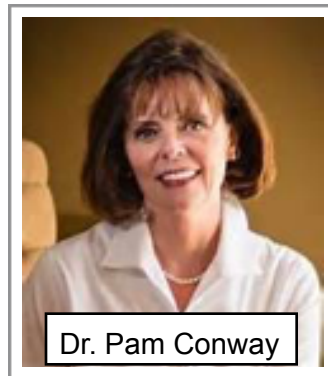
All candidates in both forums have confirmed that they will participate. Both forums will begin at 6:30 p.m. (refreshments at 6:00 p.m.) in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library, which is cosponsoring the forums with us. KFRU will broadcast both forums live and the *Columbia Daily Tribune* will do a live webcast of the events.

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

MARCH 15 LUNCH & LEARN: “CRADLE TO CAREER ALLIANCE”

Our Lunch & Learn speaker for March will be Dr. Pam Conway, Executive Director of the Cradle to Career Alliance. The Alliance aims to bring Boone County schools and community organizations together to promote children’s success by reducing disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes.

All six Boone County school districts are involved, and the board of directors represents school leaders along with community agencies, higher education, and business. The Alliance is studying issues affecting children in Boone County and developing targeted outcomes



for all stages from kindergarten readiness to postsecondary training/employment.



Because the Alliance is relatively new, this is a good time for LWV members and friends to become acquainted with its goals and operation. To find out more, visit their website at <http://www.cradletocareeralliance.org/> and come to the program on March 15.

Lunch & Learn programs are held from noon to 1:00 at the Hy-Vee at Providence and Nifong. Bring your lunch or buy lunch in the deli and then come to the upstairs meeting room.

— Peggy Placier, Co-President

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 25



The LWV of Columbia-Boone County Annual Meeting will be on Monday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Jacks Restaurant. Socializing will begin at 5:30p.m. We will have a speaker, present the Eleanor Godge Award for Exemplary Service

to the LWV, approve the budget and elect officers, board members and nominating committee members. Further details will be in the April Voter. Be sure to save the date now!

FEBRUARY BOARD REPORT

Thirteen Board members were present for the February 22nd meeting. Liz Schmidt reported that we have reached 150 members for 2016! Thanks to all our renewing members and new members for paying their 2016 dues.

Sarah Darby from the *Columbia Missourian* spoke to the Board about engaging readers at the newspaper. She suggested members write personal stories about LWV or LWV events. As the meeting went on, we were able to identify possible stories.

Decisions made by the Board:

- Set the Annual Meeting date for Monday, April 25th at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant at 6:00 p.m., with social time starting at 5:30 p.m.
- Voted to increase the 2017 dues to offset the \$1 LWVUS dues increase and the \$5 LWVMO dues increase.
- Chose Co-Chairs for the Fundraising Committee: Liz Schmidt will handle administrative matters and Pam Springsteel will handle food.

- Selected two possible speakers for the Annual Meeting.

The Board also received updates on upcoming events. In addition, the LWV TurboVote site is now active, and nominations for the Eleanor Goodge Award are being accepted.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, March 28, 2016 at the Broadway Christian Church at 6:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend.

—Carol Schreiber and Peggy Placier
Co-Presidents



UPCOMING EVENT: IS OUR GOVERNMENT TOO OPEN?

LWV members are invited to an upcoming debate on transparency in the federal government sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) and the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at MU. Given our position in favor of open government, LWV has a logical interest in this event.

The debaters will be Professor Bruce Cain from Stanford University and Professor Charles Lewis from American University. The event will be moderated by Barbara Petersen.

The debate will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15 in Fred W. Smith Forum (Room 200) at RJI. Refreshments will be available starting at 6:30 p.m.

A book signing will follow the debate. Both speakers' books will be available for purchase. To find out more and to register go to <https://www.rjionline.org/events/opengovernment>.

— Peggy Placier, Co-President

LWV NATIONAL AND STATE POLICY INFO IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Our state and national Leagues have created broadranging policy statements that are based on careful study and grassroots consensus of the local Leagues. They inform the policy positions we support in our local activities. Read and enjoy!

The "Impact on Issues" booklet (pictured right) provides the official LWV statements of position for each program area, briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. The LWVUS public policy positions reflect the



2014-2016 program adopted by the 2014 convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States; the "positions in brief" listed there summarize the official statements of position included in this guide. View online or download a copy at: <http://lvv.org/content/impact-issues>

The state League policy position booklet is also available online, at this address: <https://lvvmo.files.wordpress.com/>

[2012/04/2013-2015-guide-to-state-action-final.pdf](https://lvvmo.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/2013-2015-guide-to-state-action-final.pdf)



From left to right, Representatives Chuck Basye, Stephen Webber, Kip Kendrick, and Caleb Rowden participated in the February 4 Annual State Legislator Town Hall in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library. Moderator J. Scott Christianson is also pictured.

ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT

The LWVUS is asking local Leagues to support ACTION for 2016-2018, instead of any additional studies. At our National Program Planning meeting we learned about the LWVUS Board suggestion to support a campaign called Making Democracy Work. The Board is also asking that local Leagues concur with a broad, general statement on redistricting that will allow states without redistricting positions to take action at the state and local level.

The Making Democracy Work campaign will focus on three key issues: Money in Politics; Voting Rights and Voter Protection; and Redistricting. Our

League members voted to also include climate change in that campaign.

Additional information about the legislative priorities that will be addressed by the LWVUS this year is provided in the related article on the next page.

After input from local Leagues across the country, the LWVUS will put forward final proposals at the LWVUS National Convention in June to be voted on by the convention delegates.

Thanks to our local members who attended the program planning meeting.

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED ABOUT NATIONAL LWV ACTIVITIES?

It's easy to keep up with the activities of the national League (LWVUS). Just visit <http://lww.org/get-involved> to choose the updates you want to receive:

- Grassroots Lobby Corps (Action Alerts on priority issues)
- League News and Updates
- Voting and Election News

You can also choose to receive info on issues like:

- Money in Politics
- Health Care
- Environment
- Voting Issues
- Gun Safety
- Immigration Reform

OUTLINING THE LEAGUE'S PRIORITY FEDERAL ISSUES FOR 2016



Article from LWVUS blog, written by Jessica Jones, dated 01/12/2016

The League of Women Voters has the opportunity to play an active role on many priority issues in 2016. In addition to lobbying the 114th Congress in support of League priorities, we are working on a number of important policy proposals put forth by the President and agencies of the federal government. We will also be participating in litigation that could have a major impact on laws and regulations supported by the League.

Here's a sample of some of the important work the League will be focused on in 2016:

Voting and Elections: Restoring the Voting Rights Act (VRA) continues to be a top priority for the League. It's now been nearly three years since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted key provisions of the VRA and Congress has failed to act on historic legislation to restore the voting rights of Americans across the country. The League will continue to lobby House and Senate leadership, and engage grassroots support, to ensure that legislation to restore the VRA gets hearings and a vote in both houses of Congress.

In the area of voter registration, LWVUS has called on the Obama Administration to comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) when applicants apply for health insurance through the federal health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The League believes the exchanges are public assistance agencies and therefore must provide voter registration opportunities to all applicants, similarly to other social services such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or Medicaid enrollment. Some states, like California, that offer state-run health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act have begun to offer voter registration opportunities following pressure from the League. We believe proper implementation of the NVRA at the health benefit exchanges is an incredible opportunity to help every eligible American citizen participate and contribute to our democracy.

Money in Elections: As we enter a Presidential election year, billions of dollars are flooding into our political system and yet, voters still have no idea where the money is coming from. The

League continues to push Congress to move the DISCLOSE Act to the forefront. We also continue to address disclosure and independent expenditures with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The League hopes to build on our success of sending nearly 30,000 comments to the FEC encouraging them to redefine these two terms and end corruption in politics.

Climate Change: Now that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized the Clean Power Plan, the historic regulations to limit carbon pollution from power plants, the implementation of these regulations heads to the states. State officials and legislatures must now follow the common sense building blocks developed by the EPA to meet the goals established in the plan. Leagues across the country are working to build support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan.

Redistricting: Late last year, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Evenwel v. Abbott*, a major case that could forever change the way we view the political map. *Evenwel* has the potential to upset the criteria for drawing state and local legislative districts so that districts would be determined by the total number of voters instead of total population. The League submitted an amicus brief in *Evenwel* that supports the current practice of drawing district lines based on population counts. Leagues around the country are also involved in their own redistricting processes. The League of Women Voters of Ohio helped pass a major ballot initiative to amend the state constitution and change how the lines are drawn in Ohio's state legislative districts (PDF).

2016 promises to be a busy year. Across the country, state and local Leagues will continue to lead the way to fight back against bad voter reforms and initiatives as well as for pro-voter reforms in their own legislatures. At the federal, state and local levels, Leagues will be working hard to influence public policy and encourage participation in government on these key issues and more.

OBAMACARE: THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY A REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY LUNCH & LEARN PRESENTATION

On February 16 we were fortunate to host Dr. Jack Colwill's talk entitled "Obamacare: The good, the bad, the ugly. Future hope?" His Lunch & Learn presentation was a condensed version of a talk he gives to MU medical students, and it was packed with thought-provoking content. Dr. Colwill, Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine, UM School of Medicine, began by saying that when he graduated from medical school in 1957, he believed that universal health care was coming soon. But that was not to be. Fifty years later, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) created an imperfect system that has delivered some benefits but is failing in many ways. Here are the highlights:

- **The Good:** The percentage of uninsured people has dropped to around 11%. Applicants cannot be excluded because of preexisting conditions. Preventive services are better covered. Insurance companies must spend 85% of insurance premiums on medical care.
- **The Bad:** There are still an estimated 30 million uninsured, about half of whom would be eligible if they applied. People whose income is too high for Obamacare may decide not to purchase their own insurance or not to buy into an employer-offered plan. Then they are unable to cover high medical bills, and costs for everyone go up. Others are undocumented immigrants. A study has shown that 53% of the uninsured have trouble paying medical bills, compared with only 19% of those with private insurance. If people choose a plan with high deductibles, in order to lower the cost of monthly



Dr. Jack Colwill, Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine, UM School of Medicine spoke on Feb. 16.

premiums, they may run into trouble. In addition, the biggest increase in health spending is the cost of prescription drugs, particularly specialty drugs, which Obamacare does not address.

- **The Ugly:** States like Missouri that have not expanded Medicaid eligibility leave many working poor in the situation of being too "wealthy" (even though beneath the federal poverty level) for Medicaid but unable to afford private insurance on the ACA marketplace. Insurance companies continue to be hugely profitable, and some have opted out of the ACA marketplace. Even worse for the long term, the ACA does not bring medical costs in line.

If health care spending as a percentage of GDP rises even 2% per year, government spending on non-health issues will dive over the next century.

How did we get in this "ugly" fix? Dr. Colwill explained that we have a "fee for service" system in which there are incentives to see more patients, do more tests, fill hospital beds, etc. The primary care physician has taken second place to more

expensive specialists, and the primary care physician is often not a gatekeeper to costly specialist care. An audience member asked, "Should we move to a single payer system?" This would be the "Medicare for all" model. Dr. Colwill said there are good aspects of such a system. It would diminish the role of insurance companies and give the insurer (the federal government) more power to control costs of health care and prescriptions.

— Peggy Placier, Co-President



Upcoming League Events!



MARCH 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	MAR 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 CAT TV "State Government Overreach?" 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12
13	14 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	15 Lunch & Learn "Cradle to Career Alliance" South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon	16	17 Confronting Climate Change Symposium MU Bond Life Science Ctr	18 Confronting Climate Change Symposium MU Bond Life Science Ctr	19 Confronting Climate Change Symposium MU Bond Life Science Ctr
20	21 Candidate/ Ballot Issues Forum Library 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Candidate/ Ballot Issues Forum Library 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26
27	28 LWV Board Mtg Broadway Christian Church 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31	APRIL 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 CAT TV 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	19 Lunch & Learn South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon	20	21	22	23
24	25 Annual Meeting Jacks Restaurant Socializing begins at 5:30 Meeting at 6:00 p.m.	26	27	28	28	30 LWVMO Spring Conference Boone County Historical Society Bldg.

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)
 Liz Schmidt (445-0655)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
 Civil Liberties: Open position
 Education: Open position
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Fundraising Co-Chairs:
 Liz Schmidt & Pam Springsteel
 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 at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Local Website: lwvcbc.org
 State: lwvmissouri.org
 National: lwv.org
 Local Voter Information Portal:
lwvcomo.turbovote.org
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LEAGUE!



As you know, 2016 will be a busy election year!! We will have forums for the city council, hospital, school board, county, state and national elections (and primaries), plus our educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Thanks for your support!

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.

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.)

MEMBER UPDATE

The League welcomes new member Sharon Hanson.

LWV TURBOVOTE NOW ACTIVE!

Our voter registration and assistance website through TurboVote is now available at lwvcomo.turbovote.org. This site provides a "one stop shop" web portal through which individuals can register to vote; request an absentee ballot; update voter addresses; request alerts about upcoming local, state, and national elections via text messages and email reminders; and learn about election issues, candidates, etc., through data provided by the non-partisan Voter Information Project. LWV has partnered with student organizations at Mizzou and with TurboVote to create this website. Mizzou has its own TurboVote site for Mizzou students. Our League portal is available to students at Columbia College, Stephens and Moberly Area Community College who wish to participate, as well other Boone County citizens.



League of Women Voters

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MARCH 9 CAT TV: STATE GOVERNMENT OVERREACH?

The Missouri State Legislature has passed bills, and is currently debating bills, that take local control away from cities and counties. The LWV March 9th CAT TV show will look at the effect of this type of legislation on the policy and funding of Columbia and Boone County.

Southern Boone County Commissioner Karen Miller will provide a county perspective. City Councilman Michael Trapp will look at the impact on Columbia. A third panel member will provide contextual perspective on this type of legislation. Jim Robertson, managing editor, from the

Columbia Daily Tribune will moderate the panel.



The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. 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, Co-President

ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We look forward each year to honoring a member of the LWV CBC with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League.

This award honors exemplary service and a longterm commitment to the principles of the League. The primary service should be at the local level, but may also include service at the state and/or national level. The award may be given posthumously. It will not be given solely in recognition of one's performance in an elected or appointed League assignment.

Some previous recipients include Lorene Emmerson (2009), Carolyn Leuthold (2012), Maydell Senn (2013) Lael Von Holt (2014), and Kathryn Allen (2015).

If you would like to nominate someone, please send their name and a brief description of their service activities to carolschrei@gmail.com by **March 15**, so the board can make a selection at its March meeting. The award will be presented at our Annual Meeting in April.

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President
