



# The Voter

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

## A NEW PLAY: PRACTICING DEMOCRACY!



Is democracy in crisis? What are the ethical obligations of citizens and politicians? How does technology affect democracy? These are some of the questions raised by “Practicing Democracy”, a new play by David Webber, retired professor of political science at the University of Missouri.

The play centers around two young, ambitious candidates in a primary election who meet an elder statesman — patterned after several well-known individuals, including Missourians George Parker and Harriett Woods — who provides wisdom and experience to the young candidates.

There will be four performances of the play, on Thursday, September 21; Friday, September 22; and Saturday, September 23 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 p.m. These will be held at the Missouri United Methodist Church, 204 S. 9th Street in Columbia.

Each performance of the play, which is directed by Byron Scott, will be followed by a panel discussion of the issues. We will also provide an opportunity for voter registration at each performance. The play is in honor of National Constitution Day; copies of the Constitution will be available free for attendees.

Tickets are \$10 each; \$5 for college students; and younger students are free. Our LWV chapter is sponsoring this fundraising event; net proceeds will go to continuance of LWV work.

Reserve tickets online at practicingdemocracy.org or send your check to: LWVCBC, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. Be sure to indicate which performance you want. Or call Marilyn McLeod at (573) 445-3500 to make a reservation. Also, call Marilyn if you can volunteer to serve as a ticket taker for one of the showings.

— Marilyn McLeod

## COMING UP – OUR ANNUAL PICNIC!!



Our League will celebrate the return of our members and welcome prospective members at our annual kickoff picnic. It will be held on Thursday, September 7 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the home of one of our members at 3109 Greenridge Rd. (Greenridge Rd. runs south off of Blue Ridge Rd. near its eastern end.)



# Picnic

League members and to introduce potential members to the League. You will also have an opportunity to sign up for committee(s).

Bring a friend, neighbor or colleague to the picnic and introduce them to the League! We will provide sub sandwiches, drinks and tableware. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

We hope to see you there!

— Marilyn McLeod

This is a great time to learn what our committees are planning for the fall, to re-connect with other

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## AUGUST BOARD MEETING REPORT

The 'lazy, hazy, crazy' days of summer faded quickly as the LWV board met on August 28th to review recent activities and plan for many fall events. One of the main upcoming activities is sponsorship of David Webber's play entitled "Practicing Democracy" to be presented September 21-24th (see pg. 1 for details). The play will provide an interesting look at our political process and provide some 'food' for thought and discussion. We encourage LWV members and friends to attend a performance and to engage in some interesting discussion afterwards.

Our League continues to monitor issues concerning the implementation of the new Voter Photo ID law in Missouri and developments in relation to the lawsuits surrounding this new law. A major focus is trying to assess how many voters did not know about the photo ID requirements in the August election and to identify reasons why voters lack this information.

The League is busy planning a number of educational activities for members and the public. We will continue to have a Lunch and Learn meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Future programs are being planned on topics including the Columbia Community Land Trust, the Sunshine Coalition, Columbia's energy facilities combined with tours of the MU and City power plants, and the State Historical Society building. Please join us for some very informative sessions. We would also welcome ideas from members--let

us know what topics you would like to see covered in these sessions.

There are a number of opportunities for members to become more actively involved with our League. We will be holding a number of voter registrations in the coming months and would welcome member involvement. In addition, a new Public Relations committee has been formed to reach out to the community by speaking to groups, by writing articles on timely topics, and by helping to identify areas of common interest with other organizations. Finally, Redistricting will be a big issue in the coming months. Our League will be establishing a committee to explore alternative equitable approaches to Redistricting. These times require that we all become actively engaged to insure that our institutions and values endure. Your time and talents would be appreciated in any or all of these activities.

Finally, let's not forget to have fun together and to nurture the friendships that come from being part of the LWV. Our annual Picnic will be held on Thursday, September 7th. This is a wonderful time to see friends, meet new people, and to enjoy good food. We hope to see you there!

— Diane Suhler, President



## JULY BOARD MEETING REPORT

The July 24th Board meeting was packed with past activities and future events. Here are highlights of the board meeting—

- David Webber, a special guest, discussed his play, "Practicing Democracy", and provided ideas for ways to promote the play and how to discuss what we want in our democracy. Details about the play are in the Voter.
- A round of applause and accolades for the Homelessness and Mental Health forum conceived and executed by Janet Thompson, "How to Run for Office" conceived and executed by Carol Schreiber and Marilyn McLeod, and the ongoing CAT-TV presentation cyber-crime conceived and executed by Elaine Blodgett, Carol Schreiber, and Marilyn McLeod.

- Elaine Blodgett pointed out that the national LWV is very active on healthcare and voter protection—and, they are sending action alerts to members, so we express our points of view.
- Fair redistricting was discussed. The National LWV redistricting action tool kit is available at <http://forum.lwv.org/document/redistricting-action-kit>
- Marilyn McLeod explained that the MO LWV board wrote to Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft requesting that he follow MO law in regard to the Election Integrity Commission's (chaired by Kris Kobach) request for MO voter information.

— Sharon Schneeberger, 1st VP

## MAKING A KILLING: PRICE GOUGING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN THE US. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Jan Swaney, MD, will be our guest for the League Presents CAT TV Show on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. The title of the show is "Making a Killing: Price Gouging of Prescription Drugs in the US. What Can Be Done?." Jan will present material that was in the movie Big-Pharma that has been shown throughout central Missouri, as well as describe actions that consumers and patients can do to afford their prescription drugs.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on September 13. The program will be available on our website 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. CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.



— Carol Schreiber

## LWV SUPPORTS THE CLEAN MISSOURI BALLOT ISSUE

The Clean Missouri ballot issue is a constitutional amendment by initiative petition. Signatures are being collected now. This measure has several features that are high priorities for the LWV:

### Ethics in Government

- Eliminate most lobbyist gifts to state legislators
- Require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists
- Lower campaign contribution limits for state legislative candidates

### Open Government

- Require that legislative records be open to the public

### Fair Legislative Districts

- Ensure that neither party is given an unfair advantage when drawing new legislative maps

after the next census (2020) and all other censuses

- Add fairness and competitiveness as criteria
- Ask an independent state demographer to lead the technical work on new maps

The LWVMO Board of Directors endorsed this initiative petition at their August 25, 2017 board meeting. There are many other organizations supporting this initiative petition including Missouri Faith Voices, MO Rural Crisis Center, MO National Education Association, NAACP of MO and Jefferson City, Sisters of Loretto, MO Association of Trial Attorneys, and MO Coalition for the Environment.

If you are interested in being part of the team to collect signatures to put this issue on the ballot for an upcoming election, please email us at [LWVCBC@gmail.com](mailto:LWVCBC@gmail.com).

— Carol Schreiber

## VOTER REGISTRATION OPPORTUNITIES - VOLUNTEER NOW!

This month we are planning on having several opportunities for voter registration. We will work in shifts on September 6 and September 26. The other dates will be one shift. If you are interested in participating in providing this service to our community, please contact Marilyn McLeod at (573) 445-3500 or email: [lwwcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwcbc@gmail.com). We will set up training time in advance, as needed.

**September 12** – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Columbia College "Hey Day" Fair

**September 21, 22, 23** – 7:00-7:30 p.m. and **September 24** – 1:30-2:00 p.m.

– in conjunction with the play, "Practicing Democracy"

**September 26** – 10 a.m.-6:00 p.m. – National Voter Registration Day

– in the front lobby of Columbia Public Library

— Marilyn McLeod

## LWV STATEMENT ON ELECTION 'INTEGRITY' COMMISSION

07/06/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Washington, DC – League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the White House openly admitting the Election 'Integrity' Commission is seeking to find potential fraudulent registrations on the voter rolls:

"We knew from the start that the so-called Election 'Integrity' Commission was created to justify President Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections. Mr. Kobach's request for voter records is consistent with his tactics of voter suppression and today the White House openly admitted the Commission intends to find fraudulent voters, even where there are none.

"Obviously, this Commission is fishing for fraud where there isn't any.

"Secretary Kobach has a history of suppressing voters and removing thousands of eligible voters from the rolls. Mr. Kobach has been brought to court — and lost — several times for suppressing the constitutional rights of citizens to vote in his home state of Kansas. He has also been sanctioned for 'deceptive conduct' and was fined by a federal magistrate judge for misleading the court.

"We've said it before: this Commission is not interested in facts, but rather false accusations in order to implement dangerous election policy."

Contact: | 202-263-1332 | [scourtney@lww.org](mailto:scourtney@lww.org)

## LWV REACTS TO FIRST MEETING OF ELECTION COMMISSION

07/19/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Washington, DC – League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the first meeting of the 'Election Integrity' Commission:

"This Commission is undermining the public's confidence in our elections. We've already seen thousands of voters cancel their registrations since Commission vice-chair and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach requested personal voter information from all fifty states.

"The members of this Commission have a history of voter suppression efforts. Despite their claims of

having no agenda, they have entered into this voter 'study' with preconceived results. This fishing expedition for voter information is intended to lead to more voter suppression – not improving our election process.

"Democracy only works when people stand up and vote. The League of Women Voters urges the American people not to be intimidated by this Commission: stay enrolled and encourage others to register to vote.

"Our elections have integrity. This Commission does not."

Contact: | 202-263-1332 | [scourtney@lww.org](mailto:scourtney@lww.org)

## LWV MEMBERS NOW TRAINED TO OPERATE VIDEO EQUIPMENT!

Many thanks to CAT-TV Executive Director Sean Brown for providing training on the CAT-TV video equipment. LWVCBC Board Members Gayla Neumeyer, Elaine Blodgett and Barbara Hoppe are now trained to use the CAT-TV equipment so

we can videotape LWVCBC Lunch & Learn Programs, our public forums, and other events, to be shared with a larger audience on Facebook and YouTube.

— Barbara Hoppe

## 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 19, 2017. For September 2017 we recognize:

- **Wendy Noren** for being our speaker at our October 2016 Lunch and Learn on the topic "Voting Trends and Issues."
- **Mark Jones** for being our guest on the October 2016 CAT TV show called "Ballot Issues 101."
- **Columbia Public Library** for co-sponsoring events with the LWV and providing meeting rooms. We also recognize **Patricia Miller, Lauren Williams and Seth Smith** for hosting the events.

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

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR OCTOBER 15



On Sunday Oct. 15, from 10:30 a.m to 5 p.m., the League will be a participant in the Sustainable Living Fair. It will be held in City Hall, at 8th Street and Broadway. We will again be showing that 2016 and the preceding 2 years were the hottest years up to that year and that all 16 of the years this century were hotter than all but one in the 1900s. Come participate in some of the nine workshops and see many booths regarding sustainable living.

Workshops include: Composting, Going Solar, Green Investing, Stormwater Collection, DIY Home Efficiency, Climate-Conscious Living, Short Films, What's Recyclable, and more.

If you can volunteer to staff our booth at the fair, contact Dick Parker at [rbparker1@centurytel.net](mailto:rbparker1@centurytel.net). For more information on the fair go to <http://www.sffcolumbia.org/>

— Dick Parker



Left, Karen Miller, center, former Boone County Southern Commissioner, speaks with audience members at the “How to Run for Office” workshop held on July 18. Miller, along with former state representative Nancy Copenhaver and former Columbia City Councilwoman Barbara Hoppe, who appear behind Miller in the photo, provided information and advice on how to run for local, county and state offices.

Below, participants in the “How to Run for Office” workshop.





## Upcoming League Events!



### SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	SEPT 1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Annual Fall Picnic 3109 Green Ridge 5:30 p.m.	8	9
10	11	12	13 CAT-TV: Price Gouging on Prescription Drugs 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18	19 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	20	21 David Webber play "Practicing Democracy" United Methodist Church 7:30 p.m.	22 David Webber play "Practicing Democracy" United Methodist Church 7:30 p.m.	23 David Webber play "Practicing Democracy" United Methodist Church 7:30 p.m.
24 David Webber play "Practicing Democracy" United Methodist Church 2:00 p.m.	25 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	26 National Voter Registration - LWV Columbia Public Library (10 to 6)	27	28	29	30
OCT 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 CAT-TV 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17 Lunch and Learn Conley Rd HyVee Noon	18	19	20	21
22	23 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27	28 LWVMO Fall Conference Sedalia, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
29	30	31	NOV 1	2	3	4

**LWV Officers:**

President: Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
 1st VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)  
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)  
 Treasurer: David Leuthold (449-1358)

**Elected Directors:**

Joni O'Connor (234-1012)  
 Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)  
 Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)  
 Vena Long (777-2487)  
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)  
 Gayla Neumeyer (882-8366)  
 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: Vena Long  
 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](http://lwcabc.org)  
 State: [lwmmissouri.org](http://lwmmissouri.org)  
 National: [lww.org](http://lww.org)  
 Local Voter Information Portal: [lwcolumbiamo.turbovote.org](http://lwcolumbiamo.turbovote.org)  
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"



Thank you very much for your continued support! Dues received now are for the 2018 year. We are preparing for the upcoming Cat TV programs, Lunch & Learn programs, 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 postal mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)

**NEW RESOURCES ON ELECTION LAW, REDISTRICTING, AND THE ERA**

Leaguers are working on passing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). They communicate using a Facebook tool called Workplace, which is a social network, messenger, and productivity tool for groups. A Workplace account is only visible to people in the team/group and is separate from a personal Facebook account. A Pass the #ERA group has been created and is open to anyone who would like to join. To sign up and participate go to <https://goo.gl/forms/LXKGbxMLA3k5OkTh1>

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972 and sent to the states for ratification. Missouri is one of 15 states that did not ratify the ERA before the 1982 deadline.

Another great resource is a blog with a focus on the law of politics and the politics of law: election law, campaign finance, legislation, voting rights, initiatives, redistricting, and the Supreme court nomination process. The blogger is Richard L. Hasen, a professor of law and political science at the University of California, Irvine, and the author of "The Voting Wars: From Florida 2000 to the Next Election Meltdown." Here is the place to find the blog — <http://electionlawblog.org/>

— Sharon Schneeberger



**League of Women Voters**

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **2018 LWV CALENDARS**

2018 LWV Calendars are ready. This year's cost will be \$8. Please, let us know if you would like one of the calendars by emailing us at [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com).