



# The Voter

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

## DEC. 8 LUNCH & LEARN: 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)



Our December 8 Lunch & Learn program from noon to 1 p.m. will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Disabilities Act. Columbia Disabilities Commission members Rene Powell, John Bowders and Lydia Olmsted will discuss the history and current state of the ADA. Prior to the program, everyone is encouraged to watch the movie "Crip Camp" on Netflix or the Netflix YouTube channel. It is an informative & entertaining documentary on the ADA movement. Watch it for FREE on Netflix's YouTube channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4>.

The Nov. 10 program on Columbia's African-American Heritage Trail was well attended and extremely interesting. We learned how the Sharp

End Heritage Committee and Columbia Parks and Recreation designated sites as part of the city's African-American Heritage Trail. Committee co-chair Barbra Horrell described the effort to preserve landmarks and locations that are a part of Columbia's black history, including Douglass School, the Second Missionary Baptist Church and the J.W. Blind Boone Home and also shared personal stories. Many thanks to her for her work and for sharing this important history with us.

Looking ahead, our Jan. 12, 2021 program will be on "The Economic Impact of Covid in Columbia" and the Feb. 9 program will feature the "United Way Equity Challenge."



J.W. "Blind" Boone Home. Photo by Balee Konen. *Columbia Missourian* Oct. 23, 2019

We are pleased that the Columbia Public Library is cosponsoring these events and hosting the programs on Zoom. Viewers are encouraged to ask questions during the programs using the Zoom Chat feature. You will need to register for these events on the library's website: [events.dbrl.org](https://events.dbrl.org). Lunch & Learn Programs are also recorded and can be viewed on our website and Facebook page.



— Barbara Hoppe, Lunch & Learn Chair

## FOUNDER'S DAY EVENT DECEMBER 11

Please join us for our annual Founders Day event on Friday, December 11, 2020\* at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will explore a little bit of the history of both our League and Boone County.

December 11, 1919 is the actual date when the Columbia Equal Suffrage Association became the League of Women Voters of Columbia.

Over the years, we have looked forward to a social event in either November or December. In some years past, we called it a holiday

luncheon, but in recent years we have used this event as an opportunity to celebrate our history, and have called it our "Founders Day" event. This year, due to the pandemic, we won't be able to have an in-person event, but we think it is still a good idea to have an opportunity to socialize, even if distantly! (on Zoom, naturally).



(Continued on page 4)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the election over, it is time to think about how it went. There was so much activity and confusion in the run up to the election that it seemed difficult to get it all under control and there were genuine concerns about the process.

The combination of the pandemic, the temporary and complicated changes in the voting rules, the work to inform the community about the changes, the League's active engagement in trying to defeat the proposed Amendment to the state Constitution that could have serious negative ramifications for fair maps in the state—these were just a few of the factors that made this one of the most complicated and busy election seasons we have ever seen.

### The Vote Boone Team & Boone County Clerk's Office

Despite all the confusion raised by this year's general election, Brianna Lennon and her Boone County Clerk's office staff, poll workers and volunteers did such an amazing job to make it all go smoothly. There is an article on page 5 by Sharon Schneeberger about the great work of the team. We are so pleased to present our "Liz Schmidt Community Service Award" for 2020 to that group (see pg. 4).

### Social Media

Social Media was a way we interacted with the public about voting, more than in any previous year. For the 100 days leading up to the election, we had a stalwart trio who came up with posts promoting voter registration, deadlines, how to vote, etc. for each day. That was quite a task to keep going for 100 days, but our grateful thanks go to: Peggy Placier for our Facebook page (which has over 400 followers), to Sharon Schneeberger for our Twitter feed (which has over 400 followers) and Carol Schreiber helping develop the content. Great job!

### Election Protection

Some of our members also participated in the Election Protection coalition, which is a state (and national) project to monitor polling places to help, if necessary, with information and even legal assistance in case of problems. Sharon was our mid-Missouri "Captain" who managed the project, organizing the volunteers. There were 37 total volunteers in Boone and Cole Counties. We knew that the job would probably be easy in Boone County (because it is so well managed) but it is important work and interesting for individuals to participate in. I know that I personally checked out four different polling places in different parts of the county. It was so gratifying to see everyone patiently and cheerfully waiting to vote. The lines were a little long in the morning, but by later in the day, the polls that I visited were basically either clear or had normal waits. Thank you to the League members who volunteered to participate in that program, including: Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly LWV), Meredith & Joe Donaldson, Linda Headrick, Sharon Lee, Dorothy Mathews, Maria Parker, Jean Sax, Sharon and Ken Schneeberger, Carol Schreiber, Mahree Skala, and Linda Smith.

Thank you all for your contribution to "Making Democracy Work"! It is now time to take a breath and relax and be sure to stay safe during this holiday season.

Wishing you all the best!

— Marilyn McLeod, President



## TIME TO RENEW YOUR LWVCBC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021

### DEC. 10 EVENT: “FACT, OPINION OR MISINFORMATION”

Social media is now many Americans' number one news source; however, some of the information you'll find there is false, misleading or even digitally altered. During this virtual seminar, you will learn strategies for becoming a savvy user of digital media in the 21st century. This event is co-sponsored by the League of

Women Voter of Columbia-Boone County and the Columbia Public Library.

This event will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, from Noon-1 p.m. Register to get a link to this Zoom event. [Click here to register](#)

— Marilyn McLeod

### CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE TO FOCUS ON RACIAL JUSTICE

The LWV Civil Liberties Committee met on November 18 on Zoom to begin planning for public information programs in the upcoming months. In an earlier meeting this year, the committee determined to focus on the topic of racial justice.

The plan is to have a two-part forum focusing on the disparities in juvenile justice statistics of young black men who end up in the justice system. Janet Thompson suggested a number of local organizations and individuals involved in the movement to ameliorate the situation who could provide the background, resources and ideas for solutions for the issue. The committee will be working on the plans for these forums,

which we expect to cosponsor with the Columbia Public Library, and possibly other groups. The first forum will focus on providing background and resources to share with the public; the second forum, a few weeks later, will focus on ways that individuals and the community can work on to address the situation.

The topic for the L&L for February is the United Way Equity Challenge, which fits in well with this topic. We will provide details on this in the next *Voter*. The committee is also planning on a Lunch & Learn in the spring focusing on police reforms.

— Marilyn McLeod

### THE “NO ON 3” CAMPAIGN

*Statement from the League of Women Voters of Missouri:*

Voters narrowly approved Amendment 3 on Nov. 3, overturning redistricting reforms voters approved two years ago. As legislative redistricting proceeds under the new rules in 2021, the League will continue to fight for fair maps or transparency in redistricting.

Amendment 3 could allow twice the level of gerrymandering typically described as “severe,” but it doesn’t have to. The League is especially concerned about language calling for “one person one vote” since it could make Missouri the only state not using the total population count when drawing legislative districts. That would leave out 1.5 million Missouri children.

“We are committed to ensuring as fair an outcome as possible when new maps are drawn,” says Clean Missouri’s Sean Nicholson.

“Amendment 3 was written to allow for truly radical gerrymandering, but it does not require it. The broad bipartisan coalition that passed Clean Missouri will be active and engaged in the 2021 redistricting process to ensure that voters and communities come first in new maps, not politicians.”

The fiscal note for Amendment 3 said “Individual local governmental entities expect significant decreased revenues of a total unknown amount.”



## OUTSTANDING CITIZEN(S) AWARD FOR 2020



Every year, our League recognizes a local individual for their outstanding service to the community. This year, the board voted to award the "LWVCBC Outstanding Citizen Award" to Stephanie Browning, director, and Scott Clardy, assistant director, of the Columbia/Boone County Health Department in recognition of their leadership in the face of the worst pandemic in 100 years.

We are so grateful for their exhaustive efforts in making our community safe. It is tragic that there

are individuals who are not willing to abide by the recommendations or actually act in opposition, but we know how important their recommendations and their work is. We are sure that when a vaccine is available that we can count on their leadership in bringing it to the community.

We will present the Award at our Founders Day Event which will be held on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. (on Zoom, naturally).

— Marilyn McLeod

## THE LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR 2020

Every year, our League recognizes a local group for their outstanding service to the community. This year, the board voted to award the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award to everyone who made this election year such a success, including the County Clerk, the staff of the County Clerk, the poll workers and the many unsung individuals who worked so diligently to make the election go so smoothly: "The Vote Boone Team & Boone County Clerk's Office."

Congratulations to this team on a job so very well done, despite so many obstacles, and with such creative solutions to meet the challenges!

We will present the Award at our Founders Day Event which will be held this on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. (on Zoom, naturally).

— Marilyn McLeod

## FOUNDER'S DAY EVENT DECEMBER 11

(Continued from pg.1) We will honor the recipients of the annual Liz Schmidt Community Service Award and the Outstanding Citizen Awards (there are two this year). See articles above on this page.

In addition, since we have spent so much of this past year on election and voting issues, we thought we might turn our attention to another important historical event – 2020 is the 200th anniversary of Boone County! The program will feature information about the history of the

county and introduce you to the special videos that were prepared by the official Boone County Bicentennial Celebration Committee.

We are very pleased that David Sapp, local historian, will share stories of the early settling of Boone County and how the county was formed. Watch for the Zoom invitation in your email and on the website.

— Marilyn McLeod

\*(Note date change; previously Dec 10).

## ELECTION PROTECTION VOLUNTEERS

Leaving “no stone unturned” the Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon and her co-workers did many new things to make sure everyone could vote safely and securely in the Nov 3, 2020 election. Here are some of the things they did:

- Offered a Voting center at Mizzou arena where any registered voter in the county could vote.
- Placed a tent outside the County Clerk’s office for drive up voting prior to Nov 3.
- Offered 6 weekend opportunities for returning absentee ballots or casting in-person absentee ballots in public high schools across Boone County prior to Nov 3.
- Allowed people with COVID-19 in isolation or quarantine the ability to vote in the Boone County Health Department parking lot.
- Worked with the local post office to identify a specific postal drop box for mail ballots.
- Collaborated with the public library using the bookmobile to go to places around the county.
- Provided notary service.
- Routinely posted updated info on the Boone County Clerk’s website and on Twitter and Facebook
- Allowed people living in specialized housing to vote early at their locations.
- Contacted people who had problems with absentee and mail-in ballots to ensure they had time to correct these issues.
- Registered voters in many places when voter registration was open.

The thirty Missouri Voter Protection (MOVP) volunteers who signed up for poll and roving poll monitoring generally reported a peaceful, calm election on Nov 3, 2020. Long lines were reported at the beginning of the day, and in some voting locations the signage was inadequate, but 70.09% of the registered voters in Boone County were able to vote.

The sincerity of the volunteers was genuine. Volunteers were flexible and generous with their time. One young man, Tim, phoned to say he thought it was too difficult for voters to find the entrance to a school being used as a polling place and he was concerned that they were going to give up and go home without voting.

He had already called the County Clerk’s office, and more signs were put up, but he said people were still having problems figuring out where to go. He asked if we (MOVP volunteers) could put up signs. He came to my house and we made signs—duct tape arrows on the back of MOVP signs. Tim returned to the school to place them where voters could see them.

Here are a few more facts about Missouri Voter Protection and Nov 3.

In Boone and Cole counties:

- There were 9 roving monitors and poll monitors in Cole county (39,546 votes cast).
- There were 30 roving monitors and poll monitors in Boone county (131,022 registered voters, 91,709 ballots were cast with a 70.09% voter turnout).

The Process:

- Volunteers signed up and watched the training session online.
- Materials were delivered to Columbia, distributed, and returned for future elections.
- Poll monitors and roving poll monitors reported their findings via an online app, JotForm.

For the state of Missouri:

- 1400 volunteers
- 1,265 Hotline tickets on November 3 regarding voting questions or issues
- 2521 Hotline tickets during November
- 5,500 online misinformation tickets on social media
- Issues: absentee/mail-in ballots, long lines, curbside voting, and signage.

— Sharon Schneeberger



**ELECTION PROTECTION** 866 OUR VOTE



## Upcoming League Events!



DECEMBER 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	DEC 1	2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	5
6	7	8 Lunch & Learn: 30th Anniversary Disabilities Act Zoom at Noon	9	10 Fact, Opinion or Misinformation Zoom at Noon	11 Founder's Day Event Zoom at 7 p.m.	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	JAN 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Member Welcome Event 10am Zoom
10	11	12 Lunch & Learn: Economic Impact of Covid in COMO Zoom at Noon	13	14	15	16
17	18 LWV Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Zoom	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Program Planning 7pm Zoom	28	29	30

### JANUARY 9 MEMBER WELCOME EVENT!!

A Member Welcome will be offered via Zoom on January 9 at 10am for new members and others who want to learn more about how the LWV operates. A Zoom link will be sent to all members, or you can contact [mjdonlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mjdonlsn@gmail.com)

Just by being a member you make a difference. Your membership supports actions at national, state and local level to educate voters, monitor legislation and take action on important public policy issues. That is important and should reassure all members they are supporting action.

The Member Welcome can help you learn how you can find your niche to make more impact. If you want to be more involved you can sign up to take action legislative alerts from your computer. Many of our members have a particular issue for

which they have passion and use the League of Women Voters US resources to do research, monitor legislative action on national or state levels and find ways to make an impact.

Others have time to serve on committees to help plan programs and action and conduct the work of our local League.

For 100 years, members have found that involvement in the League has led them to a better understanding of public policy issues and helped them be more active citizens. Many have found personal growth in working with others interested in public policy, and sharpened their skills in leadership, management, communication and public speaking.

— Meredith Donaldson

**LWV Officers:**  
 President: Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)  
 1st VP: Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)  
 2nd VP: Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-0639)  
 Treasurer: Ruth Milledge (268-9591)

**Elected Directors:**  
 Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
 Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)  
 Susan Clark (446-1678)  
 Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)  
 Rene Powell (864-4087)  
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

**Appointed Director:**  
 Dick Parker (256-4397)

**Committee Chairs:**  
 100th Anniversary: Pam Springsteel  
 Budget:  
 Census: Carol Schreiber  
 Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod  
 Clean Missouri: Sharon Schneeberger  
 Education: Open  
 Energy & Climate: Dick Parker  
 ERA: Susan Koenig  
 Fundraising: Pam Springsteel  
 Health: Mahree Skala  
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
 Membership: Meredith Donaldson  
 Mental Health: Mahree Skala  
 Speakers Bureau: Open  
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Local Website: [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org)  
 State: [lwvmissouri.org](http://lwvmissouri.org)  
 National: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)

Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

**Member News**

Welcome to new members:  
**Kenneth Coonley**  
**Sara Perkins**

We have 205 Members!  
 95 have renewed for 2021  
**Have you renewed?**

**2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include local, state and national membership.

**NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Dues	\$65 _____	<b>\$100*</b> _____	
Household Dues	\$100 _____	<b>\$135*</b> _____	
First time member 30 years of age and under.		\$30 _____	
Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income)		\$25 _____	
<b>Student Dues in honor of our 100th Anniversary! \$0</b>		<b>\$0</b> _____	
<b>(Ages 16 to 23)</b>			
Additional contribution to subsidize dues for members unable to afford membership rates.		\$ _____	
General Donation		\$ _____	
		<b>Total:</b> \$ _____	

Donation to LWV Education Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please include a separate check for donations to the LWV Education Fund. Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible)

Make Checks Payable to LWV and mail to:  
 League of Women Voters  
 PO Box 239  
 Columbia, MO 65205

Newsletters are sent via email.  
 If you need a paper copy, please check \_\_\_\_\_

**\*We invite you to help celebrate our 100th Anniversary by joining or renewing at the Suffragist Level!**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

## JOIN THE EQUITY CHALLENGE!

The Heart of Missouri United Way has launched a free educational program called the Equity Challenge, and you're invited to join. Sign up to learn more about the inequities in our society, especially those in education, health, housing and workplaces. With the League's commitment to fight for racial equity, we are reaching out to invite you to join the Equity Challenge and promote it within your network of friends, family and coworkers.

Sign-up remains open and each person can start at the beginning of the series of seven weekly emails. The goal of the Equity Challenge is to educate the community on the racial disparities in our society and provide the tools to transition from being an ally to becoming a leader in the fight for equity.

- During this seven-week challenge we examine areas in society where racial disparities exist.
- Each email contains data, resources, reflection questions and action steps to help educate ourselves and work toward equity in our community.
- We encourage coworkers, friends and families to work through these challenges together to start the conversation and advance equity in all areas of life.
- The Equity Challenge Activity Guide provides a space to track your personal progress and record reflections throughout the journey.
- Sign up for the Equity Challenge on the Heart of Missouri United Way website and commit to utilizing the resources and taking action.
- The Equity Challenge is made possible by your participation, Inclusive Impact Institute and Heart of Missouri United Way.

We hope you will join this exciting opportunity to create change within our community!

**[Join the Equity Challenge now and become a leader in the fight to end racism!](#)**

— Mahree Skala

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