



The Voter

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

MAY 9 LUNCH & LEARN SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



Our May 9 Lunch & Learn Program at noon on Zoom will feature the Children's Grove and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness -- local chapter). May is National Mental Health Month (see <https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month>). Chad Rose, Associate Professor in the Special Education Department at MU will discuss the effects of social media use on youth's mental health, especially in the context of the COVID pandemic, school closures, etc. I hope you will join us.

Much thanks to Kathy Kiely, MU Journalism Professor, for a highly engaging and informative talk about the Sunshine Law at our April Lunch

and Learn Program. She delved first into the history and foundations of the law, with great photos, and then brought us up to date on current issues & problems. If you missed that program, you can still view it. Lunch & Learn Programs are recorded; links can be found on our website and our Facebook page.

Thank as always to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs. You will need to register in advance for our Zoom Lunch & Learn Programs on the library's website: events.dbri.org.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

FUNDRAISER — "TEA FOR THREE: LADY BIRD, PAT & BETTY" WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 7:00 P.M. (ONLINE)

Our fundraiser this year will be the play "Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty," and you can watch the film from home. No need to dress up or look for a parking place! (You can be parked in your own easy chair!)

What is it like for a woman when her husband becomes the President of the United States – and she is suddenly thrust into the spotlight?

TEA FOR THREE: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty explores the hopes, fears, quirks and loves of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford in what Mrs. Nixon called "the hardest unpaid job in the world."

We know you will really enjoy it!

After viewing the play, we will have a special opportunity for a live Q&A with the Emmy Award-winning New York actress who appears in the film. Elaine Bromka is the actress who plays all three parts. She is the co-author of the play and starred in it on Off-Broadway. She has extensive experience on stage and (cont'd on pg.3)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am typing this while on a plane to Costa Rica. But by the time you read this, I will be back home in Columbia. Costa Rica has done an amazing job, particularly since 1980, creating many incentives to revive the rainforest, nurturing the native trees and plants that support the bird and animal populations native to Costa Rica. Not surprisingly, what is good for the rainforests and animals is also good for people. The water is clean and drinkable straight from the tap, and pristine artesian wells are numerous. We will be staying part of the time at Casa Bambu in the rainforest of the Osa Peninsula, just steps away from the beach on the Pacific Ocean and Golfo Dulce. The four handmade large, two-story bamboo houses that sleep 6-8 people were made by the owner, and everything is run on solar power.

Costa Rica's work to revive and restore its rainforests and natural environment has also built a prosperous eco-tourism economy. If only the rest of the world recognized the importance of strengthening and restoring our natural environment, we would take a huge step in addressing global warming and improving life for all.

The LWVCBC Board supports the City of Columbia in achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030 for our City Utility. Carolyn Amparan, Mark Hiam, and Erica Ascani presented an informative Lunch and Learn program calling for the City of Columbia to commit to attaining 100% of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. They clearly outlined how this is entirely achievable. If you haven't seen that program, please go to our webpage and view it on YouTube.

On a different note, we had a very successful Annual meeting on April 19, 2022, via Zoom. Thanks to all of you who participated. A special thanks to S. David Mitchell, our Guest Speaker who spoke on "Voter Suppression or Voter Protection?: The Impact of Voting Law Changes." He gave us a very informative look at proposed laws in Missouri and throughout the country that would make voting more difficult for the average citizen and especially for minorities and the disabled. Only a few states have passed or proposed laws to protect the right to vote. His presentation highlighted

the dire need for us to be active and keep bills that will disenfranchise citizens - by making it harder for them to vote - from becoming law.

On a different note, at our annual meeting we presented the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the LWV-CBC to this year's very deserving recipient, Sharon Schneeberger. We elected two new members to the Board, Linda Headrick and Elaine Martin (our new Treasurer). We also added two new young appointed Board members, Zainab Nasim and Terryonna Samuels, who have been very active on our Education Committee. Welcome and thank you all for your interest in serving on the Board.

Thanks also to the Friends of LWVCBC, who helped and contributed in so many ways this year. We will post a two-page list of their names on our website and send out certificates of thanks to each friend. We have collaborated with many people and organizations this year. Our Annual Report will also be posted on the web, recapping our forums, events, activities, efforts, and programs of the last year. Many thanks to our Board, the Chairs and members of our various committees, and especially to this year's nominating Committee - Peggy Placier, Meredith Donaldson, and Sarah Wolcott - and finally to all our members.

Hasta la vista y pura vida!

— Barbara Hoppe, President
yesforparks@hotmail.com



FUNDRAISER — "TEA FOR THREE: LADY BIRD, PAT & BETTY" WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 7:00 P.M. (ONLINE)

(cont'd from pg.1) television and won an Emmy for "Catch a Rainbow". She starred in "The Presidents" for PBS where she impersonated the last eight First Ladies.

Now down to business: **This is our fundraiser for the year!**



The funds we raise from this will allow us to continue our work in the community!

Since this won't be an "in person" experience, here's how will you be able to "attend" this film:

1. Order your tickets (must be in advance). Use the handy order form (below) or facsimile; attach additional sheet as needed.
2. We must have a name and email address and phone number (in case we lose our connection) for each ticket.
3. About 48 hours before the event, we will email you the Zoom link for Wednesday, June 1.
4. At 7:00 p.m. on June 1, all the ticket holders will "meet" on zoom for introductions.
5. At that time, you will be given the link to the film (and the password).
6. You will then be able to connect individually to see the film which is about 70 minutes.
7. After the film there will be a short intermission; then return at 8:30 p.m. to your Zoom link for the interactive time with the star of the movie.

TEA FOR THREE LADY BIRD, PAT & BETTY



LWVCBC Fundraiser - June 1, 2022 - "Tea for Three" TICKET ORDER FORM

Deadline for ticket sales: we need to receive your order by Friday, **May 27**. Individual tickets are \$25 each; or you can be an Underwriter for \$100 for 5 tickets.

Each ticket must have a name, email address and phone number (if available). Or if you just wish to make a donation without watching the film, please note that.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email address</u>	<u>Phone Number (cell, if available)</u>
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Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Make check payable to LWVCBC and mail to: LWVCBC, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205

MEDICAID EXPANSION UPDATE

The Missouri Legislature's effort to reverse Medicaid Expansion seems to be "on hold."

A new constitutional amendment, HJR117, won approval in the House and was voted out of the Senate Appropriations Committee last week. The bill would make Medicaid expansion subject to annual legislative appropriations and allow Missouri to implement a work requirement for

Medicaid



participants. If passed, it would be subject to voter approval.

However, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a US Supreme Court ruling on April 18 appears to have nullified the work requirement provisions. The Biden administration has also removed all state work requirements authorized during the previous administration. According to Sen. Dave Schatz, R-Sullivan, this means that passage of HJR117 would be very challenging.

The enrollment process for expanded Medicaid coverage continues to be slow, taking up to 3 months, but once a person is enrolled their coverage extends back to the first day of the month they applied.

— Mahree Skala, Chair
Health Committee

STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL CONTROL & LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA NOW PART OF LOCAL POLICY

The two local position statements presented at the April 19 Annual Meeting were passed unanimously. Study groups on each topic developed statements and explanatory reports and presented them to the membership via Zoom on February 2. The reports were discussed at a March 28 membership meeting, and the participants reached consensus for adoption. The final reports were shared with all LWV-CBC members before the April 19 meeting.

The first study addressed the issue of local governmental control vs. preemption by state law. Study group members were Elaine Blodgett, Donna Checkett, Barbara Hoppe, Marcie McGuire, Ruth Milledge, Carol Schreiber, Mahree Skala (chair), and Diane Suhler.

The position statement adopted at the Annual Meeting reads:

LWV-CBC supports the following principle: State and federal legislation, in general, should provide a "floor," a minimum standard for local

policies that local governments can build on to fit their jurisdictions' needs and constituents' desires, but not a "ceiling" that prohibits local governments from policy innovation and testing.

The second study looked at the legalization of responsible adult use of marijuana. Study group members were Elaine Blodgett, Linda Lou Brown, Meredith Donaldson, Barbara Hoppe, Ruth Milledge, Rene Powell, Pam Springsteel, Diane Suhler, and Dan Viets (Chair)

The position statement adopted at the Annual Meeting reads:

The LWVCBC supports the legalization, regulation, and taxation of responsible adult use of marijuana.

Thank you to all whose time and effort resulted in these local positions. We are hopeful they will be adopted at the state level as well.

—Mahree Skala, Chair
State Preemption Committee

THE LUELLE PROJECT

Luella St. Clair Moss came to Columbia in 1893 when her husband was appointed president of Christian College (later Columbia College). After he died, the trustees of the College were so impressed with Luella that they appointed her president, and she became one of only a few women college presidents in the nation. She created the Schools of Music and Modern Languages, organized the alumni association, and oversaw the construction and financing of eight buildings. Her excellent administration of the College earned her the reputation as one of the most capable businesswomen in the state.

After marrying Dr. Woodson Moss in 1911, Luella became active in community, church, and political activities. She was instrumental in establishing the Columbia Equal Suffrage Association in 1912 and worked for women's suffrage until the 19th Amendment was passed.



In 1922, Luella St. Clair Moss became the first woman elected to the Columbia Board of Education. That same year, she was a candidate for Congress in Missouri's 8th District. She won the Democratic nomination in the primary,

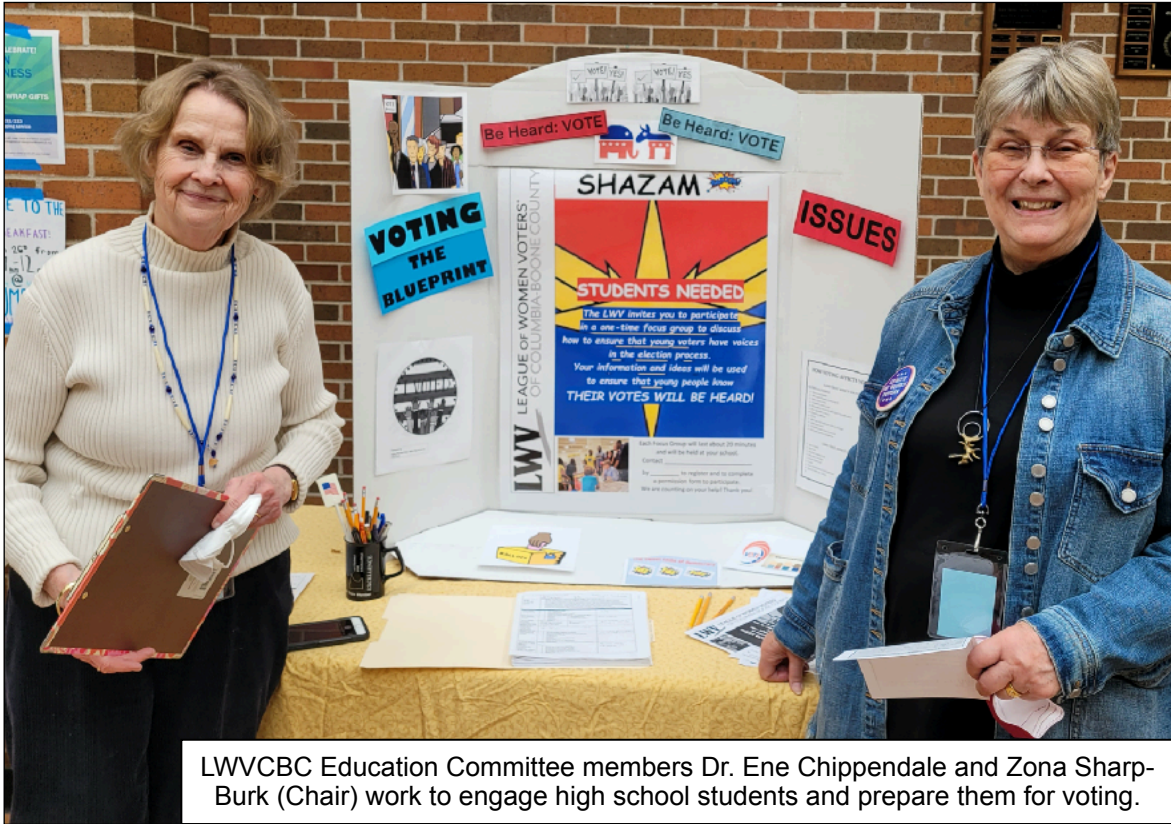


becoming the first woman in Missouri ever nominated for a national office. Despite a vigorous campaign, she lost the general election in November by a small margin to the incumbent representative.

Although Luella didn't enter politics again, she continued her contributions to civic life, including serving as president of the League of Women Voters of Missouri (1925-1927) and the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs. She was also the first woman president of the Missouri Library Commission. Her name is inscribed on a bronze tablet in the rotunda at Missouri's Capitol and is one of three names on the National Roll of Honor tablet in Washington, D.C., for her service in securing equal political status for women.

Our committee will ask each of you to write a letter to the Columbia School Board in support of naming the District's next public school Luella St. Clair Moss, in honor of this outstanding woman.

— Pam Springsteel, Chair
Luella Committee



LWVCBC Education Committee members Dr. Ene Chippendale and Zona Sharp-Burk (Chair) work to engage high school students and prepare them for voting.

STUDENT VOTES WILL BE HEARD!!

200 STUDENT SURVEYS COLLECTED

In March, Education Committee members collected Rock Bridge and Douglass High School students' responses to a focus group survey developed in late 2021. The work advances now to Hickman High. Committee member Linda Headrick is tabulating the student surveys as we collect them. Terryonna Samuels and Zona Sharp-Burk are active at Douglass, and Ene Chippendale and Zona Sharp-Burk are active at Rock Bridge. Zanib Jasim will be joining Ene and Zona at Hickman.

PARTNERING WITH DISTRICT

We now have social studies contacts within each high school and a partnering relationship with Joy Bess, the district's social studies specialist. These relationships will help our work as we continue this year and into 2022-2023.

IF ONE ISSUE WOULD BRING YOU TO VOTE, WHAT IS THAT ISSUE?

Students answered this question on small sticky notes at their schools. After an affinity sort, the top responses thus far are: 1) Human Rights and

Health Care, with six specific areas noted; and 2) Environment and Climate Change.

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

The committee received ten student applications for participation in the League during March. Many thanks to Meredith Donaldson, Membership Committee Chair, for quickly creating a form for high school students.

Students and members of the Education Committee are interested in creating a special section of the LWVCBC website that serves the more tech-savvy students and is more visually appealing to younger members.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION EQUITY

Meredith Donaldson brought an education equity request to the Education Committee at the March meeting. The committee endorsed the proposal, which then went to the Board.

Many thanks to all League members who have assisted the Education Committee in responding to student questions and protocols.

— Zona Burk, Chair
Education Committee

CALL TO ACTION: EQUITY FUNDING FOR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION IN MISSOURI

Our League, led by the Education Committee, is joining Leagues around the state and interested community organizations to plan a public engagement program to ensure that children in high-poverty neighborhoods have the same opportunities for success as those in wealthier districts.

Leagues and members of Leagues are asked to help engage community partners to align with us so we can all become state-wide champions of Equity Funding for Public Education.

The State of Missouri has a long history of underfunding public education. The state relies on property taxes for two-thirds of the revenue for school districts. This underfunding forces districts to raise property taxes, cut education services, or both. Further, this reliance on property taxes has a disproportionately adverse effect on our disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Children from families that have suffered systemic deprivation need additional resources to meet their potential for success. Equitable funding is not equal funding. Equitable funding provides what each child needs, such as smaller class size; universal Pre-K with state-approved curriculum and certified teachers at a 10:1 student/teacher ratio beginning at age 3; full-day kindergarten, enriched literacy and vocabulary programming; support for school

libraries, books for home libraries, and technology; mentoring and support for all first-year teachers; funding for Parents as Teachers; additional stipends for teachers in high-poverty districts; and a 5% salary increase for all sixth-year teachers in high poverty districts who have satisfactorily completed probation.

ACTION: We ask you, members of our League, to (1) pay attention to spending and education bills in the state legislature and let your state representatives and senators know that we demand better funding of public education, especially in high poverty areas, and (2) help engage organizations who support education to join the initiative and write letters to the Missouri Education Commissioner.

See more information about this issue and the response to President McLeod's letter to Missouri Education Commissioner Vandeven in the LWVMO January-February Voter at <https://lvmissouri.org/missouri-voter/>. If you want to know which organizations have joined the initiative so you can help recruit, or if you want to help our League's response to this initiative, please contact Meredith Donaldson by email at mjdonlsn@gmail.com or phone at 573-289-3018.

— Meredith Donaldson
Education Committee





Upcoming League Events!



MAY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1	2	3	4	5 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	6	7
8	9 Luella Committee 1:30 pm	10 Lunch & Learn Zoom at Noon	11	12	13	14
15	16 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	JUNE 1 FUNDRAISER TEA FOR THREE 7PM ZOOM	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Lunch & Learn Zoom at Noon	15	16	17	18
19	20 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LWV Officers:

President: Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)
 1st VP: Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 2nd VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-0639)
 Treasurer: Ruth Millege (268-9591) thru 6/22; Elaine Martin starts 7/22.

Elected Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)
 Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
 Linda Headrick
 Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)
 Rene Powell (864-4087)
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)

Appointed Directors:

Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Zainab Nasim
 Terryonna Samuels

Committee Chairs:

Budget:
 Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel
 Education: Zona Burk
 Energy & Climate: Dick Parker
 ERA: Susan Koenig
 Fundraising: Open
 Health: Mahree Skala
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
 Luella Committee: Pam Springsteel
 Lunch & Learn: Barbara Hoppe
 Membership: Meredith Donaldson
 Mental Health: Mahree Skala
 Redistricting Committee: Sharon Schneeberger
 Speakers Bureau: Open
 Voter Registration: Linda Smith
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

The Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwvcbc.org
 State: lwvmissouri.org
 National: lwv.org

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

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to New Members:

**Elaine Martin
 Julie Saperstein**

Current Membership = 194
 Membership Renewal is in November of each year

2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County

COME AND JOIN US!

Simply fill out the form and mail to the address below

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____

Email _____

First Time Member _____ Renewal _____

Membership dues include local, state and national membership. **We invite you to add an additional \$22 for 2022 to support the work of our League.*

Individual Dues \$65 _____ ***\$87 _____**

Household Dues \$100 _____ ***\$122 _____**

New member 30 years of age and under. \$30 _____

Student Dues (Ages 16 to 25) Enrolled FT/PT \$FREE _____

Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income) \$25 _____

Donation to subsidize dues for \$ _____

members who cannot afford membership rates.

General Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

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 here _____

**Donation to LWVCBC Education Fund \$ _____

**Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible. Please include a separate check payable to LWVEF-MO704



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

League of Women Voters

PO Box 239
Columbia MO 65205
<http://lwvcbc.org>



Longtime LWVCBC environmental heroes Win Colwill and Dick Parker advocate 100% renewable energy by 2030 for Columbia's electric utility at Earth Day.