



The Voter

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

2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOW

NOVEMBER 8 LUNCH & LEARN: CITY OF COLUMBIA SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

For the first time in several years, Lunch & Learn met on October 11 in the Friends Room of the Columbia Public Library! We will continue to do so through May. (Zoom option is also available; register at <https://events.dbrl.org/event/9020824>).

Our November 8 Lunch & Learn program will be at noon at the library and via Zoom. It will feature Steve Hunt, Manager of the City of Columbia’s Solid Waste Utility, who will talk about solid waste and recycling in Columbia and answer your questions.

Many thanks to Kathy Kiely, the Lee Hills Chair in Free Press Studies at the MU School of Journalism, whose excellent October program addressed the “50th Anniversary of the Missouri Sunshine Law, a Cornerstone of Democracy.” She covered the bipartisan history and origins of our Freedom of Information Act (aka Sunshine Law), why it was so desperately needed, how it

is used to keep the public informed about government actions, and potential changes that could dilute the law. This event was the annual Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum, co-sponsored by the LWVCBC, the Columbia Public Library, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Columbia Branch. If you missed this Lunch & Learn program it can be found at lwcbbc.org or dbrl.org. Thanks to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs.

The Lunch & Learn Committee will meet in early November to line up our January through May programs. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Barbara Hoppe at yesforparks@hotmail.com.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee



LWVCBC marchers display their costumes and signs for the October 21 MU Homecoming parade.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

November is a time for gratitude—for the bounty of the harvest and the comfort of family and friends as winter approaches. As I reflect on what I’m thankful for, the members of the LWV of Columbia and Boone County are “right up there.” You are an amazing group, committed to preserving democracy, willing to volunteer, to financially support the League’s activities, and to raise your voices for positive change.

I encourage everyone to renew your membership if you haven’t already—it is vital to our future. You can do it online at <https://lwvcbc.org/> or use the membership form in this *Voter*. We’re also happy to receive donations, including year-end distributions from IRAs (see article on page 5).

What have our talented members done lately? As part of a new reporting process for LWVMO and LWVUS, we tallied the following during the July-September quarter: 30 educational events focused on voting; 371 people engaged in person about voting; 12 state and local partners involved in LWV activities; and one excellent collaborative event focused on how to deal with misinformation. In August and September alone, 467 individuals engaged with our website. It took a lot of smart, caring people to make all that happen!

This *Voter* issue highlights some of the great work done in October, including our participation in the MU homecoming parade. The LWVMO Fall Conference will take place here in Columbia on November 4, and I’m sure we’ll learn a lot and get fired up and ready to head into 2024. The November 8 Lunch & Learn will be about Columbia’s waste disposal and recycling, which is always a hot topic. Finally, please mark your calendars for the annual Founders Day social event and awards ceremony, to be held on the afternoon of December 10. More details to come soon.

— Mahree Skala
President, LWVCBC



Joan and Steve Mudrick and Janet Thompson led the LWVCBC marchers with the LWV banner.

LWVCBC IN THE MU HOMECOMING PARADE!!



October 21 was a beautiful day and the MU Homecoming Parade was well attended. Left, crowds lined the street and applauded as the LWV marchers passed through the campus.



Above, the LWVCBC displayed a wealth of signs as the marchers and passengers traveled the route, which snaked through campus and downtown Columbia. The signs highlighted key League policy points. Left, Sharon Schneeberger made sure that the League's important messages were visible from every angle, wearing her sign on her back!

**DECEMBER 10 — MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
LWVCBC WILL CELEBRATE FOUNDER’S DAY
ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 10
WITH A SOCIAL GATHERING AND AWARDS PRESENTATION**

ENERGY AND CLIMATE UPDATE

The Climate and Energy Committee is focused on getting the City Council to Vote to have 100% Renewable Energy by 2030. The LWVCBC has worked on this with the Sierra Club, Renew Mo., and others for many months. In the last month, we have met with City Council Members individually to advocate and explain how this is realistically achievable.

There will be a work session before the City Council Meeting on Nov. 20th. It is open to the Public, and we encourage our Members to attend. (The Public will not be able to speak at this work session, but attending will be informative and educational, and your presence

there to show concern and support will be helpful). We will email all LWVCBC Members the week before this meeting with more details.

Our Lunch & Learn Program in December will focus on how the City can and should achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030 and what you can do to make this happen. Guest Speakers will be Carolyn Amparan of the Sierra Club and Mark Haim of Peaceworks. Keep posted, as we will need your support and involvement to make this happen!

— Barbara Hoppe, CoChair
Energy & Climate Committee

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

The Social Media Committee — consisting of Linda Headrick, Peggy Placier, Sharon Schneeberger, and Carol Schreiber — has met with our intern, Claire Winningham, every Monday afternoon for eight weeks. We are now posting on Facebook Groups, Facebook Pages, Instagram, and X/Twitter. We are considering TikTok, but its format offers challenges regarding how non-profits can effectively share their message.

We discuss topics, look at graphics, and consider what we want to post for the following week. The League’s policy positions guide our decisions about posts. Our primary focus is on voter registration and the voting process. We also consider the LWV calendar and other community events we want to promote.

We are developing templates for important events and saving them so we can streamline our efforts. An example October post was ***Voting isn’t scary. Register to VOTE here.*** We are

working on posts for November with statements like, ***I am thankful for—***

- ***Freedom***
- ***Right to vote***
- ***Free press***
- ***Our constitution***

How can LWV-CBC members promote social media? What can you do??

- We welcome all your ideas with an email to any committee member, and better still, please join the committee.
- We have a photo library on our LWV-CBC Google Drive and greatly appreciate any LWV event photos you take. Remember to take pictures and share them with us!
- And when you see us on social media, like us and share the post with others.

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair
Social Media Committee



The procession of League marchers in the parade included the banner-bearers, a shiny red truck full of passengers and bold signs, and a surrounding group on foot, waving to the crowd and holding up their signs.

DID YOU KNOW? HERE'S HOW YOUR CHARITABLE DONATION CAN HELP THE LWV OF COLUMBIA & BOONE COUNTY

Are you planning for year-end charitable donations? We want you to know that donations to the LWV Missouri Education Fund can be earmarked for our local league account. The Ed Fund is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, so contributions are tax-deductible.

Besides regular donations, if you are 72 or older and required to take a minimum distribution from a retirement account, you can donate these funds tax-free directly from your retirement account to the Education Fund. Accounts that qualify for direct, tax-free distributions include IRA, 401(k), and 403(b). This is called a "qualified charitable distribution" or QCD. The QCD can be a portion (or all) of your required minimum distribution. Your investment adviser can give you more information about QCDs.

You can arrange with your investment adviser to have the contributions sent directly from your retirement account to the LWV Education Fund.

These contributions should be sent to the address below. Please clearly note that these funds sent to the Education Fund are earmarked for LWV Columbia/Boone County. Our League can then draw on the funds to support educational activities such as ads for voter education programs and printing of cards and brochures.

You will need the Education Fund's EIN number for this transaction. Please contact Mahree Skala directly at skalamahree@yahoo.com for this information.

LWV Missouri Education Fund
8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104
St. Louis, MO 63144-2733

— Diane Suhler
LWVCBC Board



Upcoming League Events!



OCTOBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4 LWVMO Fall Conference Columbia
5	6	7	8 Lunch & Learn Solid Waste & Recycling in Columbia Noon Library and Zoom	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Founder's Day Celebration Library	11	12	13 Lunch & Learn 100% Renewable Energy by 2030 Noon Library and Zoom	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

LWV Officers:
 President: Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 1st VP: Susie Adams
 2nd VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-0639)
 Treasurer: Mary Hayden

Elected Directors:
 Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)
 Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
 Linda Headrick
 Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)
 Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)
 Ruth Milledge
 Rene Powell (864-4087)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)

Appointed Director:
 Zainab Jasim

Committee Chairs:
 Budget: Open
 Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel
 Education: Susie Adams & Zainab Jasim, Co-chairs
 Energy & Climate: Barbara Hoppe & Sharon Schneeberger, Co-chairs
 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
 Social Media: 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:
 Shannon Frey
 Paula Richie

In Memoriam:
 Nancy Berry
 Grace Botner Butler

We have 224 Total Current Members

2024 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.

Individual Dues	\$65 _____
Household Dues	\$100 _____
Contributing	\$125 _____
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

League of Women Voters

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



Even at the conclusion of the march, Marilyn McLeod, Barbara Hope and Sharon Schneeberger still had lots of smiles and waves for the crowd.