

**EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**THE VOTER**

March 2020 Membership 52

**ELECTION NEWS**

The League will be moderating the following:

The Montrose City Council Candidate Forum on Tuesday, March 10 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located above the Visitors Center on Cascade Avenue. Doors will open at 5:30.

The Delta City Council Candidate Forum on Wednesday, March 11 at 6pm in the meeting room at Needle Rock Brewing Company in Delta, 820 Hwy. 92, Delta. Doors open at 5:30. Town Hall format and Q & A to follow.

The Town of Paonia Mayoral Candidate Forum on Saturday, March 14 at 1PM in the Paonia Library Community Room

Spread the Word!

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## Local League News

On February 5, the Montrose County Commissioners proclaimed February 14 League of Women Voters Day in Montrose County for its significant contributions to empowering voters and making democracy work! Montrose County Commissioner and League member, Sue Hansen, read the proclamation at the 100<sup>th</sup> gala. Plus, the Delta County Commissioners issued a similar proclamation on February 19. Thank you, Commissioners, for honoring the League!

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League – February 15 at the Ute Indian Museum "Creating a More Perfect Democracy" – 100 Years Strong**



The event was well attended, meaningful, enjoyable, garnered donations, brought in four new members, and in one word was successful! The venue was brightly decorated, thanks to the assistance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary team headed by Gretchen Nicholoff, and included a beautiful cake. Susan Chandler Reed proposed a toast to the League, Linda Gann educated the attendees about the League's history, resilience, and accomplishments, and a video entitled "Creating a Better Democracy?" was shown, all of which seemed to truly engage the audience! Special thanks to Penny Heuser, Sarah Combs, Babs Schmerler, Corrine Vogenthaler, Kathie Lower, and the staff of the Ute Indian Museum for their valuable assistance.





Guest panelists Brian Meinhart, U.S. Census Bureau, Katie Yergensen, Montrose County Complete Count Committee, Karen Sherman Perez, Hispanic Affairs Project, and Paul Paladino, Montrose Regional Library, aptly explained on February 27 at our program at the Montrose Library:

**“What’s New, Why the 2020 US Census is So Important” and How It Impacts Us” and why EVERY PERSON COUNTS!**

**What’s New: the response will be mainly online** (to save taxpayers’ \$)

**Why It’s Important and How It Impacts Us: representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, and drawing of the Congressional and General Assembly maps (redistricting), and**

**\$675 billion per year of federal funds (taxpayer \$ refunded) is allotted to the states and then the counties according to the response**

The U.S. Constitution mandates Congress to conduct a census every 10 years and to count ALL people in the U.S. and its five territories.

The **official census date is April 1**, however, invitations to respond will be mailed or delivered to residents by mid-March. The invitation will include an ID code applicable to that address for their online response. The first day to respond online is March 12. Montrose Library has 25 computers available in Montrose and 8 in Naturita for use for those residents in need of one. There are alternative ways to respond---paper forms, telephone and in-person interviews---all in various languages.

The Montrose County CCC and its member organizations (including the League) are working diligently and in some fun ways to spread the word to educate and encourage our populace to participate in the census. The monies that are expected to come to our county if there is a good participation rate would equal about \$2,300 per person!!! Major efforts are under way to reach the hard to count people including the homeless, the disabled, the elderly and the Hispanic communities. Want to help? Contact Nancy Ball. We have information flyers, posters and “swag”.

Speaking state-wise, with a good response it is estimated that Colorado will receive an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the data from the census will help to avoid gerrymandering of the Congressional and CO General Assembly district maps.

**Please spread the word to your spheres of influence! IT’S IMPORTANT, IT’S EASY, IT’S SAFE! Be sure to check out 2020census.gov for more info.**

**OUR LEAGUE IS PROUD TO BE MEMBER OF THE MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES  
COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEES**



**SPREAD THE WORD:  
Every person in Montrose and Delta counties counts!**

**New Members**

**Janet Chapman**



Janet was born in Michigan and early on became interested in international understanding. The U.S. State Department created "Youth for Understanding" in 1952, and Janet took advantage of that program by becoming an exchange student to Finland for one summer. She earned her BA in Art Education at Michigan State University and a degree in Special Education from Western State University, having moved to Colorado in 1970. Janet has one daughter and two granddaughters.

Columbine Middle School in Montrose was the site of her teaching special education resources for 25 years. Janet became part of an international school group and in 2002 taught for three months in Cairo, Egypt. In 2005-2006 she enrolled in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program and spent a school year teaching in Romania, while a teacher from Romania came to Columbine for that year.

Now retired, Janet's passion is climate change, and she is a member of Citizens Climate Lobby ([citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org)), a non-partisan international and national organization established in 2015, and serves as a co-sponsor of the local group along with Wayne Quade. She continues to act as a placement volunteer for [YFUusa.org](http://YFUusa.org).

Janet joined the League because she feels it is critical that we Americans bridge the partisan gap and work together. Because the League is non-partisan, she felt it to be a good fit.

## **Patsy Wolf**



Patsy spent her early years in Washington, D.C. and St. Louis, MO and graduated with a BA in music from Trinity University in San Antonio Texas. Married in 1961, she and her husband moved to Jefferson City, MO where they had three daughters and lived for many years. During her busy working life, Patsy taught music for 24 years, preschool and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for 10 years, and wrote educational children's programs for the local public radio station. Once retired she served for 15 years as a docent at the governor's mansion and became a member of PEO International, a philanthropic organization that celebrates the advancement of women; educates women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and motivates women to achieve their highest aspirations.

Patsy said she has always been interested in government and learning, and as her husband was a newsman who became Bureau Chief of United Press International, she certainly had that opportunity! She joined League in 1961 but became inactive once her daughters were born.

Moving to Montrose just under two years ago to be closer to her daughters and grandsons, Patsy joined our League in order to become more involved in her new community and to learn and keep abreast of local and state issues. Our new member is adapting well to Montrose and is particularly impressed with our library, recreation center, Community Options, and the friendly people.

**Our other two new members, Susan Werner and Bruce Ackerman, will be featured in the April Voter.**

### **Interested in joining our local League's Board of Directors?**

With the 2020-2021 League year fast approaching and with what promises to be a **full** fall agenda, help is sorely needed. A new board will be elected at our annual meeting in May, so please do consider stepping up. Should you want additional information about particular positions and/or at-large members, please get in touch with one of the current board members. Their contact information is shown on page 9.

Your participation helps to keep our League vital! You will find League more interesting when you are involved. Time commitments can be brief, moderate or more involved. We value any level of participation.

## **LWVCO NEWS**

### **President's Letter - February 2020 – From Ruth Stemler**

Congratulations to all of you who have worked to increase membership this year. Membership in LWVCO is up 9% from last year to 1,829 members. We have 48 student members across the state in 11 local Leagues. Well done and keep recruiting!

### **2020 Council – May 30-31 – Grand Junction – Doubletree Hotel**



Might you want to serve as a representative from our local League? Contact Jan Edwards.

### **Interested in Joining the LWVCO Board of Directors?**

Qualifications: Passion for the League; Belief in Democracy for All; Energy & Enthusiasm  
Applicants from outside the Denver metro area are encouraged to apply! Contact Ruth Nurenberg at [nurenberg24@outlook.com](mailto:nurenberg24@outlook.com) for more information.

## **LWVUS NEWS**

### **100-year Historical Timeline**

Check out our [History page on LWV.org](#), and you will find a new, interactive historical timeline highlighting the League's achievements over our 100-year history. We hope this glimpse at the breadth of our work over these past 100 years will spark us all with inspiration and solidarity as we celebrate our birthday this week!

### **A step towards Constitutional equality**

Also this month, the U.S. House [successfully passed a bipartisan resolution](#) removing the ratification deadline on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Now our fight moves onto the Senate, where an identical bipartisan resolution is ready to move forward.

There is more to do to get this across the finish line. [Reach out to your Senator now and urge them to support legislation to remove the ERA's ratification deadline.](#)

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!  
REMEMBER, EVERY TIME YOU VOTE YOU SHAPE HISTORY!**

## **Contact info for the Colorado U.S. Congressional Delegation**

Sen. Cory Gardner | [303-391-5777](tel:303-391-5777)

<https://www.gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory>

Sen. Michael Bennet | [303-455-7600](tel:303-455-7600) / [866-455-9866](tel:866-455-9866) <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/?p=contact>

## **Contact info for the Colorado U.S. Congressional Delegation**

Rep. Diana DeGette (CO District 1) | [303-844-4988](tel:303-844-4988) <https://degette.house.gov/contact/send-me-an-email/email-me>

Rep. Joe Neguse (CO District 2) | [202- 225-2161](tel:202-225-2161) <https://neguse.house.gov/contact>

Rep. Scott Tipton (CO District 3) | [970-241-2499](tel:970-241-2499) <https://tipton.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Ken Buck (CO District 4) | [970-702-2136](tel:970-702-2136) <https://buck.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO District 5) | [719-520-0055](tel:719-520-0055) <https://lamborn.house.gov/contact/leave-a-comment.htm>

Rep. Jason Crow (CO District 6) | [202-225-7882](tel:202-225-7882) <https://crow.house.gov/contact/>

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO District 7) | [303-274-7944](tel:303-274-7944)  
<https://perlmutter.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

## **Contact Info for Colorado General Assembly**

Rep. Marc Catlin (CO House District 58) [303-866-2955](tel:303-866-2955)  
[marc.catlin.house@state.co.us](mailto:marc.catlin.house@state.co.us)

Sen. Don Coram (CO Senate District 6) [303-866-4884](tel:303-866-4884)  
[don.coram.senate@state.co.us](mailto:don.coram.senate@state.co.us)

Rep. Matt Soper (CO House District 54)  
[matthew.soper.house.state.co.us](mailto:matthew.soper.house.state.co.us) [303-866-2583](tel:303-866-2583)

Rep. Julie Mc Cluskie (CO House District 61) [303-866-2952](tel:303-866-2952)  
[RepMcCluskie@gmail.com](mailto:RepMcCluskie@gmail.com)

Sen. Kerry Donovan (CO Senate District 5) [303-866-4871](tel:303-866-4871)  
[kerry.donovan.sd5@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.donovan.sd5@gmail.com)

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

**2019-2020 LWV Community Support**

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County, serving Montrose and Delta counties, thanks these local businesses, organizations and individuals who have donated financial and in-kind support.

Please **add your thank you** when you patronize these businesses or visit with these individuals.

**Alpine Archeological      Bank of Colorado  
Coffee Trader      Horsefly Brewing Company  
The Montrose Mirror**

**Dennis Olmstead   Alicia Conroyd   Penny Heuser  
Rod Britten**

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Candidate forums dates are shown on Page 1**

**Your board is working to finalize dates for two exciting programs, one in April and one in May, and you will be updated as soon as they are!**

**THE LEAGUE BOTH**

**EDUCATES &**

**ADVOCATES!**

The League of Women Voters of the Montrose County is pleased you are joining us in helping to Make Democracy Work for our community and our country!

**Check out our Website:**

<https://www.lwvmontrose.org>

Our webmaster, Tanya Ishikawa, keeps us updated on and linked to local, state and national activities, issues and websites.

**Check us out on Facebook too:**

<https://www.facebook.com/VoteMontrose>

Tanya has set up an LWV Instagram account too!

**EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY  
CREATING A MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY**



**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County  
serving Montrose & Delta counties – 2019-2020  
Not for Women Only!**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Individual \$60** - Of this amount \$32 goes to National League; \$20 goes to State League; \$8 is retained by the Montrose League

\_\_\_ **Household \$90** – Two members in one household (National League receives \$48; State League \$30; \$12 is retained by the Montrose League)

\_\_\_ I understand that I can join without being active, and this is my intent at the present time.

\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution beyond regular dues and understand it will go directly to our local League (Thank You!).

\_\_\_ **Sustaining Member \$100** - Of this amount \$32 goes to National League; \$20 goes to State League; \$48 is retained by the Montrose League

\_\_\_ I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Montrose League. Write a separate check to **League of Women Voters CO Education Fund. Write "Montrose" on the check's memo line.**

Please make checks payable to **League of Women Voters of Montrose Countv.** Mail to P.O. Box 3321. Montrose. CO 81402

**2019-2020 Officers & Board**

Jan Edwards, President  
1-832-754-6302  
[janmsw96@icloud.com](mailto:janmsw96@icloud.com)

Gretchen Nicholoff, VP/LWVCO liaison  
970-525-3997, [gnicholoff@gmail.com](mailto:gnicholoff@gmail.com)

Cyndi Holman, Secretary  
1-909-556-8118, [cholmaneee@uia.net](mailto:cholmaneee@uia.net)

Barb Krebs, Treasurer  
249-3989, [stukrebs@hotmail.com](mailto:stukrebs@hotmail.com)

Tanya Ishikawa, Communications-  
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249-8963, [nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net)

**The League of Women Voters, a  
non-partisan political  
organization, encourages  
informed and active participation  
in government, works to increase  
understanding of major public  
policy issues and influences public  
policy through education and  
advocacy.**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY  
SERVING MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES  
P.O. BOX 3321, MONTROSE, CO 81402