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# Creating a More Perfect Democracy

## *League of Women Voters of Colorado Convention 2019*

Planning for the LWVCO 2019 Convention, *Creating a More Perfect Democracy*, is well underway. The dates for this year's convention are May 30 – June 1, 2019 and will be held in Denver.

Everyone is invited to training sessions on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. There will be two sets of sessions on Thursday and one on Friday. These are meant to be skill building sessions and for this year, take the place of the Leadership Conference often held in June. A member of the LWVUS staff will attend our convention and will be conducting some of the training sessions. There is no cost for these sessions; please take advantage of this opportunity to improve various facets of your League.

Much of Friday and Saturday will be devoted to the business of the convention. To the extent possible, make sure your League appoints the number of delegates to which it is entitled. It is important we hear your voice loud and clear, and this is one important way to provide input. We will discuss program (our issue agenda for the next couple of years), bylaws, budget, and elect board members and officers.

Additional items include potentially a visit from a prominent elected official and a keynote address on Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness. Each League should come prepared to highlight especially important work over the last two years. There will be a president's breakfast, a silent auction, an awards ceremony, entertainment from a musical group, and reports on the work of the state League.

This has been a particularly busy and successful year for the League in general. Let's get together and toast our successes and look forward to the future and the 100th Anniversary both of the League and women's right to vote.

Toni E. Larson, Ph.D.

President

League of Women Voters Colorado

720-387-8487 (h); 303-249-2064 (c)

# For the People Act, HR1

*On Friday, January 4, HR1 was introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill comprises a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people.*

The League of Women Voters [US] has worked to influence the language of this bill to ensure that voting rights are strengthened by this important legislation. LWV has done so within the Declaration for American Democracy coalition.

While we do support the legislation, we recognize that it is not a perfect bill. There are pieces of it that the League will not promote or work to advance. State and local Leagues who are interested in supporting HR1 publicly should focus on the following messages:

## TALKING POINTS: HR1 FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Why we need a comprehensive package of democracy reforms:

- \* It should be easier, not harder, to vote. The For the People Act improves access to voting with reforms like Same Day Registration and Automatic Voter Registration.
- \* More needs to be done to protect voters' voices. The For the People Act requires independent redistricting commissions, ends voter roll purges based on failure to vote, and restores the Voting Rights Act.
- \* Our government should respond to the will of the people, not the interests of powerful corporations and wealthy donors.
- \* The For the People Act includes strong provisions for improving transparency in campaign finance and strengthening government ethics enforcement.

Why the League of Women Voters supports the For the People Act:

- \* As an organization with a mission of empowering voters and defending democracy, the League of Women Voters is proud to support legislation that does the same.
- \* The For the People Act will improve American elections by making our election system more free, fair, and accessible to all eligible Americans.



\* The League worked behind the scenes to influence the language of HR1, including a push to include Same Day Registration. Our organization has a rich history of working with Congress to improve registration on behalf of all voters.

\* We are encouraged by the extraordinary and comprehensive reforms in HR1 that are good for all Americans and deserve bipartisan support.

What citizens can do to support the For the People Act:

\* The For the People Act makes elections fairer and puts power back in the hands of the American people. It deserves support from all members of Congress.

\* Call your legislators and tell them how important this package of reforms is to the future of our democracy. Urge them to vote in favor of HR1.

Comments from LWVCO:

As we know here in Colorado, we likely have the best voting system in the country. We have same day registration and automatic voter registration through the drivers' license process. We support expanding registration to other government agencies as well. Voter purges in the sense used in many states does not exist in Colorado.

The ballot issues Y and Z, the redistricting proposals which passed with a large majority, have as major features independent commissions. Part of the current federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) is included in our acts in order to protect a particularly important to redistricting VRA provision.

We do fall short in the areas of transparency and Money in Politics reform.

When contacting your congress people, it is still important to emphasize the importance of the pieces of the legislation listed above. It is important to emphasize how well the provisions work in Colorado and how they should be institute across the country.

Look at the national LWVUS website under League Management for additional information, updates, and suggestions about what to do.

(The proceeding is taken from the LWVUS League Update and is a request for all of us to contact our congress people.)

## Honor a Deserving LWVCO Member

*Please take this special opportunity to honor a local LWVCO League and any LWVCO member or leader who demonstrate exceptional efforts towards making democracy work for all in their communities.*

At the 2019 Convention, LWVCO will present four awards. The LWVCO Community Connections Award will be presented to a League with 60 or fewer members and to a League with greater than 60 members. This award will honor two local Leagues which have advocated for issues that have positively and visibly impacted and affected its local community. With the LWVCO Individual Achievement Award, we will honor an individual who has provided innovative and effective leadership at one or several levels within his or her local League. These levels might include various committees, media involvement, League organization, League visibility, community programs, advocacy issues, etc. A very distinctive award, the Eva Fifkova Lifetime Achievement Award, will honor a League member who has demonstrated a lifetime of outstanding participation and achievement within the community and the League of Women Voters.

The deadline for all nominations will be April 1, 2019. Completed nominations should be sent to LWVCO.

EMAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO: Beth Hendrix at [bhendrix@lwwcolorado.org](mailto:bhendrix@lwwcolorado.org)

OR USPS MAIL TO: LWVCO, attn.: Beth Hendrix, 1410 Grant St. #B204, Denver, CO 80203.

## Reflections on the 2019 Legislative Conference

*The Legislative Conference this year was packed with people and an impressive amount of information to prepare Leaguers for the 2019 session of the General Assembly. It was a full house—130 members and guests—and people showed they were ready to tackle a variety of issues of interest to the League.*

Two recently elected state officials spoke: Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold on voting issues and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser on the AG's legislative priorities. Former state representative Joe Miklosi generated excitement with his update on the National Popular Vote. Senate Bill 19-042 National Popular Vote was one of the first bills introduced in the legislature, and our attendees had many questions about how the state compact would work to allow every vote to count in the election of the president.



The Colorado League supports the exploration of alternatives in voting methods, without committing to just one method at this point. With that in mind, a presentation—with candy!—on ranked choice voting by Linda Templin of RCV for Colorado explored the idea of allowing voters to rank all candidates on a ballot according to preference—first choice, second choice, and so on. Attendees ranked their choices of five kinds of candy (with samples, a welcome offering right after lunch), and Ms. Templin showed how lower-ranked choices contribute to the ultimate winner.

After a discussion by board member Ruth Stemler about how League positions inform our advocacy, legislative liaison Andrea Wilkins gave a run-down of some of this year’s priorities. The National Popular Vote takes the top position, followed by health care (especially the state option for coverage and cost transparency), climate change, and the Tabor-created conflict between education (both funding and policy) and transportation and infrastructure needs.



Kudos to board members Cath Perrone and Ruth Stemler and former LAC Chair Deb Gard for planning this energetic day of learning, networking, and advocacy training.



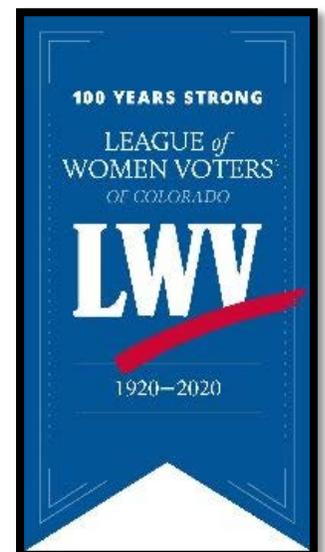
Leslie Chomic, LAC Chair

## 100th Anniversary

***Before we know it, the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters (February 14) and the Passage of the 19th Amendment will be upon us.***

2020 is going to be a busy year as we celebrate these historic events while still continuing the outstanding work the League is known for – Voter Forums, Voter Registration Drives, and our ongoing advocacy work, to name just a few.

We have formed an LWVCO 100th Anniversary Committee, which has begun work on incorporating 100th Anniversary elements into all the statewide events we do; Legislative Conference, LWVCO Council, Leader of Democracy and Making Democracy Work Conference. We have also begun collaborating with other organizations and local Leagues throughout the state as we all look to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment in August of 2020.



Many local Leagues are already planning events locally and we encourage all Leagues to celebrate in their own way. In order to share best bets, we are asking all Leagues to provide a 100th Anniversary contact so that we can share ideas and communicate and coordinate plans across all of our Leagues. While we have heard from many of you, we would like to have 100% participation.

The Anniversary Slogan is: "Creating A MORE PERFECT Democracy" and the logo is above. LWVCO will begin incorporating these elements into all of our materials, website, and other social media outlets in July 2019 and will utilize them through 2020.

LWVUS has provided a 100th Anniversary Campaign toolkit which can be accessed at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/guides/lwv-100th-anniversary-toolkit>, however, we hope we can all work together as we develop any materials that all Leagues across Colorado can utilize.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean McGuire at [jeanmcguire7777@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmcguire7777@gmail.com)

## National Popular Vote Info Session

*The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County is hosting an information session about the National Popular Vote interstate compact.*

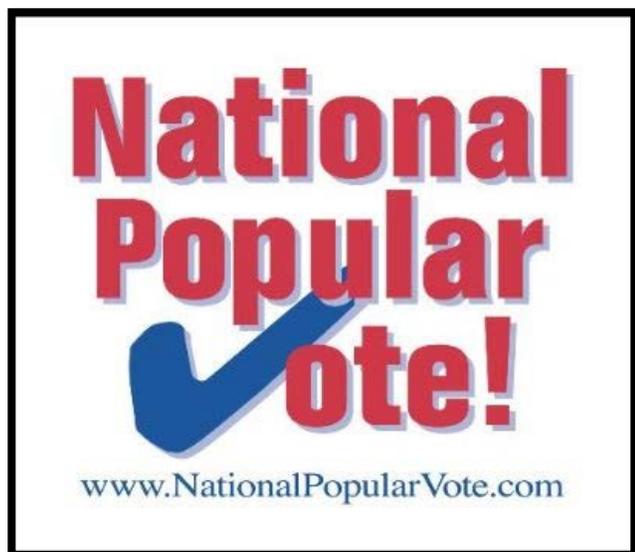
National Popular Vote is an agreement among states to award electors based on the popular vote in all 50 states. It will ensure that every vote in every state matters equally in the presidential general election.

The information session is open to all.

Date: Wednesday March 20, 2019

Place: Belmar Library, 555 S Allison Pkwy, Lakewood CO 80226

Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM



The LWV has supported popular vote for president since 1970 as essential to representative government. The LWV has supported the National Popular Vote as one way to achieve the goal.

Come and learn more about the National Popular Vote interstate compact. Bring your questions.

# National History Day

*LWVCO is sponsoring the special award category of Best Project Related to an Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and we need volunteer judges.*

National History Day in Colorado is a social studies and literacy program that equips students in elementary, middle, and high school with the skills necessary to succeed in college and the real world.

When: May 4, 2019

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM for preliminary rounds

7:40 AM - 4:00 PM for preliminary and final rounds

11:30 AM - 4:00 PM for finals rounds only

Where: University of Colorado Denver

Find more information on judging here and contact Sonia Koetting at [sonia@fingersfly.com](mailto:sonia@fingersfly.com) if you'd like to help out.

## Strategic Planning Update

### *Communications*

The Strategic Plan Communications Task force has selected Teresa Dougherty, APR, as the communications consultant to assist LWVCO Board of Directors in establishing best practices for effective communication within the LWVCO administration, and to develop a comprehensive external and internal communications plan. She started February 4 and is expected to deliver her recommendations and the plan to members attending the June LWVCO Convention. Currently she is gathering information from state board members but plans to also contact many local league leaders for their input.

Teresa is the founder of TND Strategic Communications, a public relations firm that provides a variety of communication services including communication planning, reputation management, media relations, social media and messaging and content creation. A Colorado native with over 20 years of communications experience Teresa earned degrees in journalism and political science from the University of Colorado and is Accredited in Public Relations (APR). She is a board member of the Colorado Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and serves as its ethics Officer.

The Task Force will also be sending out a brief, 10 question online member survey for your input on how we can better communicate with you. The survey will ask you about the LWVCO various communication channels and their content, distribution, and use. Please watch for this survey in your email and take a few minutes to give us your insight. Contact [marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com).

## Executive Director

Our new Executive Director, Beth Hendrix, has already been on board almost 90 days. She is continuing to orient and document her Work Plan for the upcoming year. Beth is now attending many League events and meetings to learn and reach out to our members. She wants to visit each local League. Contact her at [bhendrix@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:bhendrix@lwvcolorado.org) with any questions you might have.

## Fund Development

The Fund Development Task Force is meeting regularly to expand the financial resources of LWVCO. Their plan includes expanding non-member donations and grant funding, and continuing the education appeal (spring), advocacy appeal (fall), car donation program, planned giving program, Colorado Gives, and the Leader of Democracy Event. Newer ideas include establishing a toolkit to cultivate personal donors, targeted project donor fund, donation opportunity at all LWVCO events and participation in the new (2020) Colorado Tax write-in program. This team is working closely with the Communications Task

Force to execute a plan that promotes our LWVCO accomplishments through frequent, flexible and timely contacts to our donors and the publication of an Annual Report. This Task Force is also working with the 100th Anniversary Committee. Contact Barb Mattison, [mattisonleague@gmail.com](mailto:mattisonleague@gmail.com)

## Local League Support (formerly MLD program)

On Feb. 21, a Local League Support Coaches' workshop was held to discuss the roles and responsibilities of LLS Coaches, to consider how coaches can best meet the needs of local Leagues including challenges that the local Leagues are experiencing, to learn more about the LWVCO Strategic Plan, Club Express, the role of the LWVCO Executive Director, and to reflect upon how diversity, equity and inclusion may look in the communities they coach. The workshop was facilitated by Patty Schoedler, Prue Larson and Sue Vaughan along with presentations by Ruth Stemler and Beth Hendrix.

On the afternoon of May 30 and the morning of May 31, all LWVCO members and leaders will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of workshops at no charge to support leadership, member-engagement, partnerships, communication, diversity/equity/inclusion, and many other topics. Stay tuned for more information coming your way soon! Contact Sue Vaughan, [suev53@aol.com](mailto:suev53@aol.com).

## Partnerships

We continue to work on partnerships at the state and local level. Our goal is to encourage partnerships in order to broaden our influence and engage our communities. We will produce a guide for local Leagues and Training and a Toolkit will be presented at convention. Please come along to convention and join in the training and discussion. Contact Ruth Stemler, [rjstemler@gmail.com](mailto:rjstemler@gmail.com).

## Technology

Our Club Express software program is well underway. Websites with Membership management capabilities are up and running and doing well in Larimer, Boulder County and Pikes Peak leagues! Please check them out. LWVCO state office and Denver are installing the software as we go to print. The state Club Express program will have donor tracking capability. The technology team has made presentations on Club Express to Greeley/Weld, Estes Park, Arapahoe/Douglas, Pueblo, Jeffco and Montrose. Some of these boards are deciding next steps; Estes Park and Greeley/Weld have decided to participate! LWVCO board has decided to carve out grant money for the program. The grant packet has been emailed to each local League. A recent leader's call was held to explain the details of the grant program. Please contact Rionda Osman, rionda.osman@gmail.com, if you would like us to present to your local league.

## "Every Word We Utter"

### *Jane DeDecker's Sculpture Captures League Interest*

Loveland artist Jane DeDecker, inspired by the suffragettes who worked tirelessly to gain the right of women to vote, has designed a 20 foot tall sculpture, "Every Word We Utter," to be cast as a bronze monument. The sculpture would be completed and placed in Washington, D.C. by August 18, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

The monument honors six women who over the years fought for women's rights and equal rights: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriot Stanton Blatch, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells. "It's based on ripples," said DeDecker, "The first ripple was the women who dreamed. The second ripple is the women who first voted. The third ripple is contemporary women or women in the past who strived to make changes."\* The monument's name, "Every Word We Utter", was taken from a letter Lucretia Mott wrote in 1880 to Stanton and emphasizes that words in support of women by generations past, by those living now, and those that follow are all important to the goal of securing women's rights.

Members of the LWV of Larimer County have agreed to work with DeDecker to promote the project. "It is exciting to think of the ways our League can help educate the community about the work of the suffragettes and the need for continued advocacy for women's rights. And, we are well positioned to raise awareness of the financial support needed to complete the monument. The monument fits perfectly with the League of Women Voters 100 year Anniversary Celebration, also in 2020," said Anne Thompson, LWV Larimer County spokesperson.



This project requires an Act of Congress, along with the President's signature, in order for the monument to be placed in the National Mall. Congressman Joe Neguse (CO-2) has introduced H.R. 473 in the House of Representatives and all members of the Colorado House delegation have signed on to it. The Larimer League is asking LWVUS for approval to lobby for it and anticipates a response the first week in March. Until this is received members are encouraged to learn more about the project on the artist's website, and video, and inform friends of this exciting project.

\*Quotation from Loveland "Reporter-Herald" article, 1-17-19

Art Studio Open House Saturday, March 30 We Will Rise ... Every Word We Utter

1:00 – 3:00 pm 1503 W. 8th St. Loveland Jane DeDecker and Jody Shaddock- McNally

Meet the artist and learn the story behind the creation of the monument sculpture to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the Women's Right to Vote. View early versions of the sculpture and find out how you can support the project to place the EWWU Monument in Washington, DC. Presentations at 1:15 and 2:15 pm.

~ Linda Mahan, LWV Larimer County (970) 484-2259

## Leader of Democracy Awards

### *League of Women Voters of Colorado 6th Annual*

LEADER OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS

THURS., JUNE 6th, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., Wellshire Event Center, Denver

CELEBRATING COLORADO

Now the Safest State in Which to Vote

HONORING

\* WAYNE WILLIAMS, COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE 2015-19

\* FAIR MAPS COLORADO

The Coalition sponsoring Redistricting Amendments Y and Z, represented by Heidi Ganahl, CEO, Camp Bow Wow

\* And League's 2019 National History Day Student Winner!

Come to honor Coloradans who are making a true difference in our state!

The evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and free parking.

Watch for emailed invitations in April.

# Fundraising Support

## ***Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from Your IRA In Place of Your Required Minimum Distribution***

A donation option to consider, if you're over 70.5 years old, is a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your tax-deferred retirement account, such as a traditional IRA. A QCD is a tax-free distribution from a retirement account that can be donated directly to a qualified charity and be used to meet up to \$100,000 of the required minimum distribution on your retirement account. There is no tax deduction for a QCD; however, you also don't have to include that distribution into your taxable income.

## ***Donate Your Old Car to LWVCO!***

It's easy and it's tax deductible. Free towing! Go to: [www.vehiclesforcharity.org/Donate/LWV.html](http://www.vehiclesforcharity.org/Donate/LWV.html) and complete the online form. A representative from Vehicles for Charity will contact you to make towing arrangements. Or call 1.866.628.2277. Specify that this is a gift to League of Women Voters of Colorado.

## ***Planned Giving***

Make a meaningful and lasting gift to the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

\* Wills: Include a bequest in your current will or add a simple codicil.

\* Stock or securities: Call the LWVCO Office at 303.863.0437 for instructions on how to transfer stock to an account maintained at a brokerage firm on behalf of LWVCO. All marketable securities will be sold promptly upon receipt.

\* Life Insurance: Transfer ownership of a paid-up policy or one on which you are still paying premiums to the LWVCO. Contact your attorney or CPA for instructions.

## ***Memorials and Honors***

Give to LWVCO in memory of your Mother or Honor your Children & Grandchildren! Complete the information below and send, with your check, to: LWVCO, 1410 Grant St., Suite B204, Denver, CO 80203.

Is this a Memorial or an Honor (circle one)?

Name of person(s) being remembered or honored: \_\_\_\_\_

Special information about this person or persons: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address (street, apt., city, state) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Your Gift: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

## About Us

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

## Leadership & Staff

### *LWVCO Board of Directors 2018-19*

Toni Larson, President  
Ruth Stemler, 1st Vice-President, Program  
Cath Perrone, 2nd Vice-President,  
Administration  
Sue Vaughan, 3rd Vice-President, Local League  
Support  
Gerry Cummins, 4th Vice-President, Voter  
Service  
Jeanette Scotland, Co-Secretary  
Andrea Mitchell, Co-Secretary

Bonnie Seals, Treasurer  
Barbara Mattison, Director, Development;  
Nominating Chair  
Lena Brown, Director, Voter Editor  
Leslie Chomic, Director, Legislative Action  
Patty Schoedler, Director, LLS  
Marlu Burkamp, Director at Large  
Jean Fredlund, Director at Large, Census &  
Redistricting  
Judy Beerbaum, Director at Large

### *Off Board Committee Chairs*

Liz Black, Investment Committee  
Vicki Harmon, Nominating Committee  
Patricia Long, Budget Committee  
Jean McGuire, 100th Anniversary  
Liz Nick, Project Fund Grant Committee  
Rionda Osman-Jouchoux, Assoc. Management  
System Task Force  
Anne Thompson, Vote411

### *LWVCO Office & Staff*

League of Women Voters of CO, LWVCO Office  
Beth Hendrix, LWVCO Exec. Director  
Beth Sale, Office Administrator  
Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO Advocate

## Contact Us

Submissions - Have a photo, comment or article you'd like to submit for publication in the next LWVCO Voter? Send them to Lena Brown at [lenawilmoth@hotmail.com](mailto:lenawilmoth@hotmail.com).

General Info - Contact LWVCO state office at [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org) or call 303-863-0437.