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A Spectacular Year

We are almost at the end of what has been a very busy, and dare I say, spectacular year for the LWVCO. We have worked hard on a strategic plan that includes the hiring of an executive director, installation of an association management plan (AMS), the potential of hiring a communication consultant, developing a more aggressive fundraising plan, working with potential new Leagues in the state, adopting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion as a priority, and chalking up spectacular results with Vote411.org and voter assistance to include registering new citizens.

But we have no time to rest on our laurels. We will build on all the groundwork we did in 2018. The Colorado General Assembly will start on Friday, January 4, earlier than usual. We are working with partners on Rank Choice Voting and National Popular Vote as well as many other issues. If I were to predict anything about the upcoming session, it will be particularly busy and we will be called on to ensure citizen voices are heard on many issues.

Good Cheer and Happy Holidays to all of you extraordinary League members and your families. It is an honor to be president of this extremely important organization.

Toni E. Larson, Ph.D.

President

League of Women Voters Colorado

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

Get To Know Beth Hendrix

The board of the League of Women Voters of Colorado is very pleased to announce that it has selected Beth Hendrix as Executive Director of the League to work with the organization to further develop and implement its strategic plan including installing an association management system and increasing financial resources. The board and committees have been working over the past year to put in place a plan to increase the effectiveness of the League; Beth Hendrix is an important part of the plan.

From 2013 – 2018, Beth served as Executive Director of Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI), coordinating all programming and connections related to Denver's thirteen Sister and Friendship Cities worldwide.

Prior to DSCI, Beth worked in the local and national funding communities as a consultant program officer for entities including The Denver Foundation, Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, Western Union Foundation, The Denver Post Season to Share, and McCormick Tribune Foundation; her work resulted in the distribution of more than \$60M to local, national, and international nonprofits and NGOs.

She has a degree in Arts Management from Sonoma State University.

Beth has served on the Boards of Directors of the Anti-Defamation League, the Asian Art Association of the Denver Art Museum, and the Park Hill Children's Center. She has two teenage boys and enjoys traveling, politics, hiking, and cooking.

Passing Amendments Y & Z

The passage of Y & Z is quite a victory for the citizens of Colorado. The state League and Fair Maps Colorado are very grateful for the work League members throughout the state put into the passage of the two constitutional redistricting ballot issues.

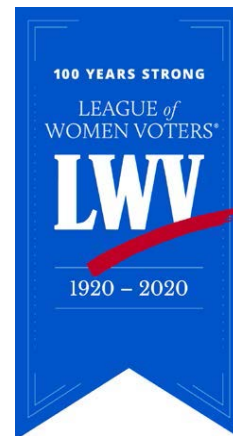
You may remember we received a \$30,000 grant from LWVUS to work on Y & Z. National is very pleased with our efforts on redistricting, and we have money left over, which we will use to work on census issues and the implementation of Y & Z. Thanks again for all the great work you did on this very important issue.

100 Years Strong

It is not too early to think about celebrating 100 years of the League of Women Voters. The ribbon you see here is the official logo for the celebration.

The state League is setting up a committee to coordinate activities and develop special events for 2020. We will be asking for a contact in each League to help with generating ideas and publicizing activities.

We have almost completed 100 years of Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy. This is certainly something to celebrate, and we should all congratulate ourselves for our part in carrying out the mission of the League.



Legislative Conference & Workshop

Monday, January 14, 2019

Scottish Rite Temple -- 1370 Grant St, Denver, 80203

Attend to Learn:

How to Make Friends and Influence Legislators

Legislative Priorities

How the League of Women Voters Uses its Voice at the CO Legislature

How to Take Action on Behalf of the League -- wherever you are

How to Initiate Action from the LAC

Doors open at 8:30am

Program will begin at 9am and run until 3pm

Continental Breakfast 8:30am - 9:30am

Buffet Lunch Noon - 1pm (Offering two entrees, salad and dessert)

\$45 per person / Registration Deadline: Monday, January 7, 2019

Mail check payable to LWVCO or go online to charge at www.lwvcolorado.org

Also, feel free to contact me with any questions, etc.

Thanks,

Deb Gard

LWVCO Legislative Chair

direct email: dgard@comcast.net

Be Informed: Legislative Letter

Every two weeks during the session, the Legislative Letter is published and distributed to subscribers, legislators, the media, the Governor's office, and local Leagues. You can read about each bill that is being followed by League, learn the provisions and the effects, and stay updated on their progress.

For \$30.00 all issues of the Legislative Letter will be sent via email for the 2019 Colorado Legislative Session.

There are two ways to subscribe :

- Secure online charge card transaction below – Add to Cart
- Mail LAC Subscription form and check payable to LWVCO, 1410 Grant St., B204, Denver, CO 80203

Strategic Planning Update

It's time for the Board of Directors to give you another update!

The Board continues to learn about the focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Embracing DEI is core to the League's mission to empower voters and defend our democracy. League must work to weave DEI into the fabric of everything we do. Equity prioritizes efforts to ensure the most under-served and marginalized among us has as much of an opportunity to succeed as the most well-served and advantaged.

Executive Director: At the November 14th board meeting, board members met the three finalists for the position. Beth Hendrix was selected as the Executive Director soon after the meeting. She began her employment on December 3rd. Beth is very interested in visiting each local League and plans to do so before the Convention. She can be reached at the State office at 303-863-0437; her email is bhendrix@lwvcolorado.org. Please help us welcome Beth.

Technology: It was decided to purchase Club Express to manage our organization. Pikes Peak Region, Larimer and Boulder County Leagues are already using this system. The plan is to install the system in the State Office and the Denver League this fiscal year. We will soon be discussing the system with other Leagues and giving you options. Funds have been set aside for this year and the board is deciding on future years. Training and technical assistance to local Leagues will be a priority! Our plan is to visit some local Leagues, demonstrate the system and answer your questions. Contact Andrea Mitchell, andrea.c.mitchell@gmail.com or Rionda Osman, rionda.osman@gmail.com if you would like a demo at your local board meeting.

Local League (LL) Support (formerly MLD): This program is being revamped at the national and state level. An important aspect of LL Support will be the LWVUS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program. Another important part of this program is the integration of the LWVCO Strategic Plan. Our state coordinators will be working with your local Leagues and will become local League liaisons. LL Support is under the direction of the LWVCO Board of Directors. Sue Vaughan, suev53@aol.com, can answer your questions.

Communications: The Communications Team is working on improving internal and external Communications. The Board's plan is to hire a professional consultant in developing a Communications Plan soon in the New Year. I hope all of you received and reviewed the Board Briefs after the 11/14 Board meeting. It is an example of our new communications efforts! Marlu Burkamp is leading the communication efforts. Contact her if you have questions: marluburkamp@gmail.com.

Fund development and Partnerships/Collaborations Teams are continuing to work on their Operational Areas. The important work of the Legislative Action Committee continues and will be integrated into the Strategic Plan.

Please contact Ruth Stemler if you have questions about the Strategic Plan, rjstemler@gmail.com.

Mid-Term Election Update

Voter turnout for a mid-term election was among the highest in more than 50 years. Colorado ranked the 2nd highest voter turnout of eligible voters in the nation at 62%. Minnesota led the way with 65% of eligible voters who cast a ballot. The national voter turnout was just over 48%. Colorado County Clerks mailed 3.2 million ballots to voters. Over 2.5 million voters cast their ballots with unaffiliated voters leading the way.

Local Leagues were very active in providing voter service work in their communities. They registered voters, hosted candidate forums, gave ballot issue talks to numerous groups and organizations. Thank you to all of you for providing that service.

The Ballot Issues project was a major effort. LWVCO printed 55,000 copies in English and 5,000 in Spanish. The publication also appeared online on several websites including VOTE411, the Colorado Independent, and LWV Colorado. Of the 13 statewide ballot issues, four of six referenda passed and only one citizen initiative passed (payday loans). Referenda that failed to pass were Amendment V, age qualification for legislative candidates and Amendment W, ballot language for judges - the latter received 53.8% of the vote but needed 55% to pass.

VOTE411, our online voter guide, included a partnership with the Colorado Independent to expand our election information to a broader audience. Cath Perrone led this effort to give Colorado voters information on voter registration, candidates and ballot issues. Nationally, over 5 million voters accessed information on VOTE411,

There are many people across the state to recognize and thank for their work to provide voters with nonpartisan information in 2018. You are too numerous to list but know that your work is appreciated. Thank you!

Looking forward, it is not too early to begin planning for Election 2020.

Colorado Turnout Statistics - 2018 Election

Unaffiliated	880,025 (34.0%)
Democrats	851,006 (32.9%)
Republicans	814,134 (31.5%)
Other	40,124 (1.5%)

Program Planning

Program Planning instructions are coming very soon to local presidents, state contacts, spokespersons or whomever is designated in that lead role. Keep an eye out for the details and plan on attending your local League meeting on this important subject after the holidays.

501 (c) (3) Tax-Exempt Status

The Arapahoe and Douglas Counties League (LWVADC) recently achieved a 501c3 status, allowing all donations to be tax-deductible, including member dues and charitable donations. Maggi Markey led the effort which took nearly two years to complete and significant communication with the IRS.

In addition to dues and contributions being tax deductible for both League members and donors, many agencies and foundations are more willing to give funds to 501(c)(3) organizations, and the LWVADC may find it easier to obtain grants or other funding.

As with many good things, the new status comes with a trade-off. LWVADC is now limited as to the amount of advocacy or lobbying that is allowed. There is no limit on “pure advocacy” for the League but lobbying activities, which are activities directed to specific legislation, cannot constitute a “substantial part” of LWVADC activity.

In the application, you can choose between basing the way you account for lobbying activities either by time or by money spent. LWVADC choose to account for the measurement of lobbying actions by electing 501(h) which includes the “substantial part” test based on dollars spent rather than time spent. This means in practice that LWVADC lobbying expenditures cannot be greater than 20% of total annual expenditures.

If you'd like to know more about how LWVADC completed the process or how they are implementing the new status, contact Maggi Markey at maggimarkey@gmail.com.

Copyrights & Using Images

When including images in League materials, League leaders should always review the copyright permissions closely before incorporating it. Using photos and graphics in League materials including social media posts and newsletters without the appropriate permissions can expose the League to legal action or hefty fines.

Copyright infringement can lead to penalties regardless of infringer's knowledge or intent. Even if your League has used photos in the past without permission, you can still be charged thousands of dollars in retroactive licensing fees. Incidents like these are not unique, and all Leagues should make efforts to avoid these types of situations. To help Leagues do so, here are some recommendations from LWVUS:

1. Use your own images. You always have ownership of the photos you take. If you are photographing or filming non-League individuals at events or in public, use our photo release forms to get written permission and keep them on file for up to three years.
2. Use images from the LWVUS Flickr site. All of these images are owned by the League of Women Voters and licensed for use by local and state Leagues.
3. Use free stock photos from legitimate websites that are licensed for public use. Pay special attention to any requirements on these images. Some images require an image credit back to the website and/or photographer. Here is a list of several of these reputable free image sources.

Thank you for your help in protecting the League's brand and ensuring our compliance with copyright laws.

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 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 wonderful Children & Grandchildren!

Complete the information below and send, with your check, to: LWVCO, 1410 Grant St., Suite B204, Denver, CO 80203.

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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
Lena Brown, Director, Voter Editor
Barbara Mattison, Director, Development; Nominating Chair
Patty Schoedler, Director, MLD
Marlu Burkamp, Director, Communications
Jean Fredlund, Director at Large
Deb Gard, Director, Legislative Action
Judy Beerbaum, Director at Large

Off Board Committee Chairs

Anne Thompson, Vote411
Pat Long, Budget Committee
Liz Nick, Project Fund Grant Committee
Jean McGuire, 100th Anniversary
Frank Bennett, Legislative Letter Editor
Susan Stark, Census 2020
Rionda Osman-Jouchoux, Assoc. Management System Task Force

LWVCO Office & Staff

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

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.

General Info - Contact LWVCO state office at info@lwvcolorado.org or call 303-863-0437.