



Colorado Voter

Volume 28, Number 2, 2014

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO

LWVCO Legislative Conference

Monday, January 12, 2015

Old Supreme Court Chambers
State Capitol, 200 E Colfax Ave, Denver 80203
Seating in the Chambers is limited to 150 spaces.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Preview of the 2015 Legislative Session: 9 - 12:00 noon
Lunch, LWVCO Staff Lobbyist: 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Scottish Rite Temple, 1370 Grant St, Denver, 80203

Choice of box lunch:

1. Chicken Wrap with Avocado and Cucumber
2. Tuna Salad w/Green Apples Croissant Sandwich
3. Vegetarian Wrap

Legislative Conference Registration Form – Deadline Monday, January 5, 2015

Registration Fee: \$32.00 includes program and lunch

Name: _____

Local League: _____

Email address or phone: _____

Lunch choice (circle one): *1 Chicken Wrap* *2 Tuna Salad Sandwich* *3 Vegetarian Wrap*

Payment options:

- Check payable to LWVCO
- PayPal at www.lwvcolorado.org (accepts all major credit cards)
- Visa or MasterCard # _____
Exp. Date _____ Amount _____

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From the President

The election season is roaring along with Leaguers across the state hosting forums, registering voters, giving ballot issue speeches and muting TV election advertisements. I wish we had some of the stupendous amount of money spent on election ads redirected to the Colorado education system....

We had a rousing time at League Day starting out with an intense forum between the two major candidates for Secretary of State videotaped by Denver 8 TV. If you were not there, or if you would like to review the comments, you can find it online. Go to: YouTube.com and type in: "2014 Colorado Secretary of State Forum" in the search field. Thanks to Nancy Crow, League Day planner, and Nancy Ulrich, Denver 8 liaison, for making this possible.

Our Director of Communications, Sonia Koetting, has given us a blueprint for media outreach to the whole state. We're promoting Vote411.org with eye-catching banners and putting sidebars on several web pages to ask thought-provoking questions about the issues that will be on the ballot. We are learning, as fast as we can, about the tremendous potential of social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) from Sonia's patient guidance.

Our Ballot Issues pros and cons pamphlet is being distributed across the state. The text is available online at www.LWVColorado.org along with an audio format for those who are visually impaired. Gerry Cummins, Vice President for Voter Service, really pulled the troops together to get the four ballot issues succinctly described and easily understood. Julie Leonard, our Executive Director, translated the ballot issues into Spanish so that we are able to distribute a Spanish text version.

Our advocacy side worked diligently to study the four initiatives and saw major flaws in Amendment 67, Amendment 68 and Proposition 104, so the LWVCO recommended that voters oppose these three. We took no position on Proposition 105 because we have not had a consensus among our nationwide grassroots members. That's how the League works, and we should be proud of that integrity.

Next week I will be in Cuba talking to women's groups and trying to understand that country from my League of Women Voters perspective.

Bobbie Heisterkamp, LWVCO President

Visit Molly Brown Museum's Special Exhibit

The Molly Brown House Museum in Denver has a special theme of women's suffrage in our state through January 25. Margaret "Molly" Brown was an activist; "A Right to Vote" explores Ms. Brown's engagement with the U.S. suffragist movement. LWV Colorado helped enrich the exhibit with facts and detail specific to Colorado. Research was provided by 19-year-old Noah Johnson and his mother Sandy, a new member to LWV Larimer. Noah has a knack for research and we've been lucky to benefit. When you plan a trip to Denver in the coming months, include a stop by the Molly Brown House downtown. Visitors see the house by guided tour only, tours leave every half hour.

League Day 2014

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO Vice President Program

What do human trafficking and National History Day have in common? Both were topics at this fall's LWVCO League Day. On September 20, 139 League members met in Denver for the annual LWVCO League Day. Presentations covered the full spectrum of League work in the areas of Voter Service and Program.

The day started with a Voter Service event, a candidate's forum for the office of Secretary of State. Cath Perrone, Carol Pace and Nancy Ulrich partnered with Denver Decides and Denver Channel 8 to produce and tape this event for future airing. Wayne Williams, Republican, and Joe Neguse, Democrat, participated in the forum with Beverly Weaver of Denver Decides moderating. League members in the audience augmented the prepared questions with their informed and articulate questions. After the forum Gerry Cummins and Patty Schoedler continued the Voter Service theme, educating us on the amendments and propositions on the Fall 2014 election ballot and gave us the first glimpse of the pamphlet "Ballot Issues 2014."

Other presentations addressed the League's work in the area of program. Nancy Crow presented the LWVCO Board's position on each of the four ballot issues as well as the League's established position(s) used to support each decision, and the rationale the board used in reaching their decisions. Professor Courtenay Daum, CSU Department of Political Science, informed our new LWVUS study on amending the US Constitution. She led us through the constitutional requirements for amending the constitution and the history of how this process has worked in the past. Her PowerPoint is in the LWVCO drop box under Local Leagues within the folder "LWVUS Study Amending the Constitution" or you can contact me at crow.nancyc@gmail.com to receive a copy. Kimberly Love and Ken Wyker of Shared Hope international spoke on the tragedy of human trafficking. They helped us understand the urgency of the problem and motivated us to advocate for the new LWVUS position adopted by consensus at the national convention last June. More information can be found at <http://sharedhope.org/>. Barb Mattison briefed us on the latest work of the Behavioral Health Task Force and the proposal that the task force will put forth to update the LWVCO Health position to include behavioral health. With this, all parts of what we call program were covered: advocating for the positions we hold, arriving at new positions through study or concurrence, and proposing new studies to address a need.

Local Leagues speaking on topics of interest is a tradition at League Day. The first presentation by Carol Pace, LWV Denver and LWVCO Board, was on National History Day activities and how local Leagues, particularly in the Denver vicinity (Adams, Arapahoe/Douglas, Boulder, Denver, Estes Park, Jeffco, Larimer), because of proximity, may participate as special category judges. Carol Pace, along with Karen Connor stepping in for Mesa County, facilitated a second presentation on Remote Testimony for Legislative Sessions. Carol Pace, Sharon Cave (LWV Gunnison Area), Nancy Ball (LWV Montrose, serving Montrose and Delta Counties), and Vicki Harimon (LWV of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties) presented a third topic on serving as an Election Judge in Colorado. Carol may be reached at lwvpace@gmail.com if you would like more information on any of these topics or would like to receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentations.



Secretary of State candidates Joe Neguse (left) and Wayne Williams with moderator Beverly Weaver.

Photo by Karen Hart, LWV Arapahoe County

Program Planning 2015

By Nancy Crow, 1st Vice President, Program

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVCO program planning process by making recommendations concerning state program issues. This is how the League remains a grassroots organization. On odd numbered years, local Leagues consider local and state program. On even numbered years, local and state Leagues consider local and national program. 2015 being an odd numbered year, each local League will consider its own local program and the state program. State program response forms will be due on February 20, 2015.

I. State Program

New Study, Review, Concurrence or Drop: Local Leagues are asked to propose any new study, up to three positions for review, any concurrence and/or recommend a position be dropped.

In a new study, members evaluate possible issues by asking: Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

In a review, local Leagues can ask the state League to review an existing position for purposes of recommending updating, amending or dropping it.

In a concurrence, local Leagues have the option of recommending a program item for concurrence. Most often the proposed concurrence is based on a position of another state or local League.

Local Leagues can propose a position be dropped.

II. Local Program

A similar process is used to evaluate local program with the added component of prioritizing issues.

Elections 2014

By Gerry Cummins, 4th Vice President, Voter Service

Another Election Season has come and gone. Kudos to all local Leagues who spent countless hours on voter service activities! Leagues registered voters, hosted candidate and issue forums, explained the ballot issues, and answered questions about the new Colorado election laws. LWVCO compiled the Ballot Issues, which were posted on our website and on VOTE411.org. They were available in English, Spanish and an audio version. The VOTE411 project, an online election guide, had statewide participation. A complete report will be available in the coming months as we assess all of our voter service activities.

VOTE411.org Update

By Karen Connor, Director & VOTE411.org Coordinator

Local Leagues have been promoting VOTE411.org and feedback indicates that voters like the site. Several candidates who did not initially respond before the site went live contacted me asking to have their information posted. Late additions were not allowed close to the election as administrative access was curtailed. After the election local league contacts need to let me know the outcome of all of their local races and initiatives so the site can be updated. Thanks to all who have supported VOTE411.org for your help and patience.

Behavioral Health Task Force Request for Local Leagues

By Barbara Mattison, Chair, LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force

The Behavioral Health Task Force has recommended updating the LWVCO Health Care position to include Behavioral Health. This updating process requires a study and the Task Force asks that, during upcoming Program Planning sessions, local leagues make this formal request for a study. This can be done on the Program Planning forms that will soon be sent to all leagues by Nancy Crow, LWVCO Program Vice President. Some leagues will begin Program Planning in December; most will complete this by February so that results can be sent to the LWVCO Board.

The Behavioral Health Task Force is requesting this update study because neither the LWVCO nor the LWVUS health care positions includes specific reference to behavioral health. The LWVCO position in brief is: Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary. The LWVUS position (April 1993) states: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. In today's world, because of many co-occurring conditions, the term behavioral health is used and includes both mental health and substance use disorder.

Help bring our Colorado League's health care position up to date by requesting a study at Program Planning.

Learning About Membership, Leadership

By Margie Beal, Membership and Leadership Development Coach

On September 19 a group of about 20 Membership and Leadership Development Program (MLD) coaches and local League contacts gathered for an all day training session. The goal of the training was to give the coaches some new strategies to use as well as reviewing some of the tried and true ones. By having local League contacts attending, the coaches had an opportunity to actually use some of the approaches they had learned. Response was quite enthusiastic.

We were fortunate to have CO Shur Fellows Lottie Fox and Therese Hansen join us. The Shur Fellows are coaches from LWVUS who work with two states each to enhance the MLD program in those states. It was helpful to have the Fellows' input and expertise added to the program. Linda Mahan and Lineah Davey, Shur Fellows for other states, also generously gave time to present parts of the training.

Ask your local League MLD contact about Grow Me! Don't know who that MLD contact is? — Find out! The MLD program provides a framework to grow membership and develop leadership locally, but it is not just for coaches and contacts. Every member should be acquainted with and using the principles of MLD.

Stay tuned for additional information at State Convention next May.

FUNDING THE WORK OF LEAGUE

\$1M Incentive Fund for Colorado Gives Day, December 9

All Local Leagues Benefit

By Julie Leonard, Executive Director

The incentive fund for Colorado Gives Day has grown to \$1 million for 2014, through the generosity of FirstBank. The LWVCO Education Fund (LWVCOEF) and each nonprofit that participates will get a share of the incentive fund based on how much they receive in donations on December 9. The 300% increase over last year should mean more money in each local League Ed Fund account, since the LWVCOEF board decided last year to distribute the incentive money among them.



Another way to increase all Leagues' share is to encourage donations by forwarding the email appeal that will be sent out in November and personally contacting League members and supporters. Donations can even be pre-scheduled to take effect on December 9.

Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. It provides a year-round channel for nonprofits to share information about their programs and reach out beyond their own membership for support.

Check out the Education Fund's profile at www.coloradogives.org/LWVColorado/overview, and consider posting a testimonial! We'd welcome photos of Ed Fund activities to include in next year's profile, too.

Additional Contributions to LWVCO and the Lobby Fund, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

The following individuals donated to the Lobby Fund in addition to donations made in memory of Kathy Glass. Their donations to the Lobby Fund were not acknowledged in our last Voter. Thank you for your support!

Gwyn Green

Elaine Olson

Elaine Ovson

STATE AND LOCAL LEAGUE CONNECTIONS

Celebrating the Right to Vote

August 26 of this year marked the 94th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which stated simply "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Finally, in 1920, after decades of struggles by our brave foremothers, came women's right to vote and validation of the right of women to run for elected offices.

To celebrate "Women's Equality Day" the League of Women Voters of Montrose County held a one-hour parade in front of the Montrose County Courthouse. Six Leaguers, four Cedaredge Women's Literary Club members, and three passionate Montrosians dressed in period costumes and carried signs highlighting the anniversary and reading "Vote" and "Women Make A Difference." The Montrose Daily Press and KVNF Community Radio covered the event with photos and interviews.



Photo by Jim Schwiertert

50 Year Member Honored

By Hazel Gibson, Chair, LWV Greeley-Weld County

LWV-Greeley-Weld County honored Joan Harrison on July 20, 2014 at the League's Summer Picnic with a 50 year LWVUS membership certificate.

The League also honored her with these words, "It is with great pleasure that we congratulate you on fifty-years of outstanding service to the League of Women Voters. Please accept the enclosed certificate as a token of our appreciation as you become a Life Member in the League."

Joan has volunteered to do everything from president of the Greeley-Weld County chapter to baking cookies and welcoming folks to numerous meetings. She says, "It is rewarding to realize one is part of a network: national issues that affect us all, a state organization that coordinates sister leagues on state issues, and then our local League with local focus. League is good; long may it thrive!"



Above: Joan Harrison, now a 50 year member.

Speed Dating with Candidates

Local Election 2014: A Local League Story

Candidate forums are the most visible image of the League of Women Voters during an election season. Communities look to the League to provide them opportunities to ask candidates questions about issues that are important to them as voters. Most forums are traditional in format: Candidates give an opening statement and then are asked key questions provided by the League or a co-sponsoring organization. Then the audience may be asked to submit written questions or -- if small -- oral questions are taken. The forum concludes with closing statements from the candidates. This format is very fair and equitable but sometimes not very engaging. And if you have more than 4 to 5 candidates - it becomes very repetitive. So when the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley was faced with a forum for Sedona City Council that had eight candidates running for three seats, we asked whether a more engaging and interesting format might be used. Fortunately, at the LWV National Convention in June one of their members had learned about Speed Dating! It is a simple but very effective format for candidates and voters to have face-to-face conversations.

After some initial exploration and positive feedback, LWV Greater Verde Valley organized just such a forum with candidates. Essentially, the candidates still provide opening and closing statements but in between sit at tables while the audience, moving in groups from table to table at timed intervals, asks questions of each candidate -- just as in speed-dating.

Reprinted with permission from Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

LEAGUE ADVOCACY

Subscribe to the **Legislative Letter**
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The biweekly letter is created by the Legislative Action Committee and the staff lobbyist, who follow proposed legislation and analyze pending bills based on League positions.

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Advocacy Training Coming in December

By Jean Fredlund, Legislative Action Committee Chair

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) is getting ready for the next Colorado legislative session. Our annual orientation/lobbyist training will be held on December 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the LWVCO office at 1410 Grant St, #B204, Denver, CO 80203. All LAC members, new and returning, are urged to attend. We will be learning how to approach our legislators in person, by phone, by mail, email, and Twitter.

This year, because of a law passed last year, off-site testimony at legislative committee hearings will begin. Remember, any citizen can voice their own opinions, but if a League member is speaking on behalf of LWVCO their statements must comply with League positions as approved by the Board, and reiterated in the bi-weekly Legislative Letter.

Even though the start-up of the off-site program will be limited at first, League members who would like to testify in the future are invited to attend the December 5 LAC training either in person or via conference call. Contact Julie Leonard at 303.863.0437 or info@lwvcolorado.org for information on how to join in. If you would like to join LAC, call Jean Fredlund at 303.428.5420. We meet every other Friday at the LWVCO office from 9:00 a.m. to noon during the legislative session (January to May).

EDUCATION OR ADVOCACY? A REMINDER

Leagues need to be clear in event publicity whether the event is a voter service (balanced and unbiased) or an advocacy event. We lose potential fans when they show up for one and discover another. Some possible wording for publicity:

“This event is provided by LWV Voter Service to educate, not advocate.”

“This event is intended to support LWV’s position in favor of ...”

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF COLORADO
1410 GRANT ST STE B204
DENVER CO 80203-1855

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Interested in the League of Women Voters?

__ Please send information about the LWV of Colorado.

__ I would like to join the League of Women Voters. Annual dues are \$50. Please make your check payable to LWVCO or join online.

Name _____

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Mail, with check, to:
LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204,
Denver, Colorado 80203-1855

Join online, through PayPal, at
<http://www.lwvcolorado.org>.

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join the League

Any person of voting age may join the League of Women Voters (LWV).

For information or to find the local League nearest you, contact the LWV of Colorado.

Phone: 303.863.0437

Fax: 303.837.9917

E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org

Website: www.lwvcolorado.org

Calendar

2014

November 4	Election Day
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday*
December 5	Lobbyist Workshop
December 8	Board Meeting
December 9	CO Gives Day
Dec. 24-31	Winter Holiday*

2015

January 1	New Year's Day*
January 12	Legislative Conference, Denver
January 19	MLK Jr Day*
February 7	Voter Deadline

*Office Closed

