



Making Democracy Work™

Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

April 2019

www.LWVDenver.org
info@LWVDenver.org

1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

Phone: 303-321-7571
Fax: 303-320-8557

Our Amazing Bulb Sale On its Way!

We had another successful bulb sale last year, with more sales than the year before. Some of that was because of improved sales from the Boulder County League, but after 25 years, we are still making this sale work, providing us with an office and a new office manager. We do have quite a few new members, so I'm expecting us to do even better this year. We are budgeting \$21,000 in gross revenues and we intend to achieve it.

For those of you who may be new to this project or just haven't tried it before, we have packets we carry around in April and May with pictures of all the products we sell. The pictures sell the bulbs. We sell and collect the money in the spring when people see what their yards need, and the high-quality bulbs are delivered directly from Holland by the middle of October. We also have indoor forcing bulbs for those who no longer have gardens. We have ways to donate bulbs to Denver parks, etc., and the bulbs make wonderful gifts.

We appreciate that so many of you make an effort to buy bulbs or make cash donations, but we need more Leaguers to **SELL**. Carry the packets with you as you interact with those you see at other activities. You will be surprised how easy it is. Some members put a notice about bulbs to sell on Nextdoor, an internet site for neighbors helping neighbors. If people respond, you drop off a packet. If you are willing to do this, it could significantly raise our sales.

We also have the pictures and an order form on our website. Anyone can send the order form with a check to our office. We hope to be able to pay online next year.

I'll be handing out packets at the April 1 briefing or you can sign out a packet during office hours. I would also be happy to drop a packet (or two to three) at your home

April Briefings

National Popular Vote Compact and Alternative Voting Methods

Monday, April 1, 5:30 p.m.
McCullum Room
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church

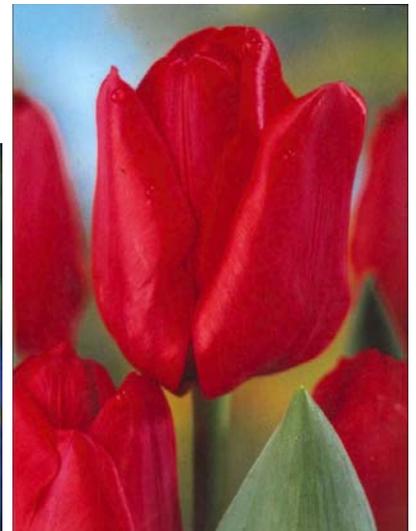
Ballot Issues

Monday, April 15, 5:30 p.m.
McCullum Room
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church

or office. If you sign out more than one packet, people can keep one a few days to make their decision and you still have another to use. We would like the packets back by the end of May. If you are done selling, you may turn in your packet(s) anytime. The Legislative Wrap-Up May 20 might be a good time, but if you are still selling, keep selling.

Good luck!

Marty Sloven
Bulb Sale Chair



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April is About Voting!

National Popular Vote Compact and Alternative Voting Methods

Monday, April 1

5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

“The League of Women Voters believes that the direct popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for the election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.” That quote is our position. In Colorado today, a bill to join the National Popular Vote Compact has been signed by the Governor.

At this briefing, we will learn more about the compact from one of the sponsors, Representative Emily Sirota, assuming her schedule permits. Rep. Sirota was elected this past November, taking the seat previously held by Paul Rosenthal. We look forward to meeting her and getting the questions you might have about the compact answered.

The second part of the briefing will be an explanation of alternative voting methods with an emphasis on Ranked Choice/Instant Runoff. Our LWVCO position is “The League of Women Voters supports authorizing and implementing alternatives to plurality voting that allow people to express their preferences more effectively.” We will be updating this position at the LWVCO Convention May 31 and June 1. We have not seen alternative voting in Denver, so it is important to understand the problems with plurality voting and how alternatives would work.

Denver Ballot Issues and Hot Legislative Issues

Monday, April 15

5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

After talk of perhaps four or five ballot issues on the Denver ballot this May, there are only two issues: Right to Survive, an initiative repealing the camping ban for the homeless in Denver; and the Decriminalization of Psilocybin Mushrooms. There will be an initiative entitled Let Denver Vote concerning the Olympics on the June runoff ballot, if a runoff is needed. Our Voter Service team will bring us up to date on these issues.

Since it won't take an evening to cover two or three initiatives, we will also discuss some of the hot legislative topics that are still to be determined or other permanent issues.

Every Person Counts in Colorado Act (HB19-1239)

Sponsors: Rep. Tipper and Rep. Caraveo

The League of Women Voters of Colorado and Denver urge you to support the passage of the Every Person Counts in Colorado Act, which will provide meaningful state funding to accomplish a fair and complete count in the fast approaching 2020 Census, a constitutionally required enumeration of every person living in the country. The decennial census is the invisible backbone of our democracy, crucial to how federal funds are divided among the states; congressional apportionment; redistricting; and key decisions by businesses, nonprofits, and public officials. It truly touches every facet of our state.

What the bill does:

- Creates an appointed bipartisan and diverse committee, administered by the Department of Local Affairs, to award grants to nonprofits and local governments to ensure a complete count

across all of Colorado for the 2020 Census.

- Grants will focus on outreach to and education of communities and groups that are the hardest to reach.
- Based on an empirical study from the Colorado Fiscal Institute, the committee will award \$12 million total in grants.

The 2020 Census will impact all of us for a whole decade. That's why a broad group of nonprofits, service providers, researchers, and policy experts have come together to support Every Person Counts in Colorado Act. Supporters include Common Cause Colorado, Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Center on Law & Policy, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado and the League of Women Voters. The bill will go before Committee next week Tuesday, March 26.

Looking for our Next Leaders in League

Treasurer

Do you aspire to high finance? Do you have a bookkeeping or accounting background? Maybe you'd like to learn to be the Treasurer for LWV Denver! Responsibilities include making bank deposits, writing checks for expenses, balancing the checkbook and tracking financials against the budget. You would work beside the existing treasurer, Andrea Mitchell, to learn the ropes, and we also have an assistant treasurer who will continue to help with the work load. Get in touch with Peg Oldham (hamnpeg@msn.com) if you think you might be interested.

Advocacy Advisor

As Director of Program, I asked the nominating committee to find me more help. I will now have two assistants, which will be helpful in filling our calendar with interesting programs and briefings. A position I'd love to see filled, however, is what I am calling Advocacy Adviser. Advocacy, working to see that our government officials see our positions in a positive way, is under Program. Our LWVCO Legislative Action Committee does a great job of keeping us informed of state advocacy through the Legislative Letter. If someone could follow City Council, especially what is happening in some of the committees, and let the board know when we might influence policy, we would be a more effective organization. City Council and its committees can be followed online. This position could be off board, but we are hoping to add some new faces to our board with new ideas. Would you consider this position?

Marty Sloven, msloven25@aol.com

Public Relations

Marcia Verba has done a remarkable job for years in getting publicity about our briefings into local media, but would like to hand this position over to a new person. She has developed an efficient process for this and I help write the publicity pieces, so the job is well-defined. Please consider it!

Pearlanne Zelarney, pzelarney@yahoo.com

Annual Meeting on May 4

Join us for our Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn Denver located at 455 S. Colorado Blvd. Registration and the breakfast buffet begin at 8:30 a.m. followed by our guest speaker. The cost will be \$35. Happy Haynes, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation for the City and County of Denver and a Denver legend, will be our speaker and will address the vision for the future of parks and open space.

The business part of the meeting will follow, including approval of the 2019-20 budget. Member input is always welcome and encouraged. The Board is open to new directions and ideas of interest to members and ways to increase our membership. Included in this Voter is a registration form plus a nomination form for our special awards given out each year. The Marty Sloven Mother Lode award honors a member who has made a major contribution this year and the Shirley Weaver Suffragist Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a member who has served Denver League well over the years. Please return award nominations to the office by Friday, April 12.



Parking can be found in the hotel garage and to the North of the hotel.

Marge Fisch, Director of Organization

Voter Service Goes to Jail

Did you know that most people with criminal records are eligible to vote in Colorado? Voter Service has been working this month to help Denver Elections and the Colorado Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform (CCCJR) help inmates at the Downtown Detention Center and the Denver County Jail learn about their rights and register to vote. After meeting with Sheriff's Department officials and the CCCJR to learn what role the League might play, several League members have completed special training on "voting with conviction," as well as a session conducted by the Sheriff's Office for those wishing to do social service work in the jails. In addition to training, all volunteers must pass a criminal background check.

On March 6, two teams – one in each facility – spent the day with Denver Elections and CCCJR staff going into pods in each of the jails. Jeanette Scotland, Anne Duncan, Carol Jansch, and Nancy Friedman all helped those interested fill out registration forms, answered questions about eligibility, and learned about procedures - and challenges - in the jails.

We anticipate participating again in the fall, as well as in the period leading up to the 2020 election. We're also investigating the possibility of distributing the League's ballot issue Pro/Con booklets in the jails. Contact Jeanette

(jscotland@gmail.com) or Anne (anned47@msn.com) if you're interested in participating in this or other voter registration projects.

Anne Duncan, Voter Service Co-chair

**Voter Service Training at
League Office on Thursday,
April 4 from 5:00 -6:00 p.m.**

LWVD Slate of Nominees

As of 3/14/19

Director of Organization – Marge Fisch (one-year term)

Secretary – Elsie Haley

Development/Finance – Marilyn Barrett

Director of Program – Marty Sloven

Program Assistant - Ann Kusic

Voter Editor – Pearlanne Zelarney

Voter Service Co-chair – Jeanette Scotland

At-Large – Barbara Allen Ford

Members continuing 2nd year of term:

Program Assistant – Peggy Pitchford

Director of Communications – Pearlanne Zelarney

Treasurer – Andrea Mitchell

Membership Chair – Patty Cordova

Unit Organization – Jackie Long

Voter Service Co-chair – Anne Duncan

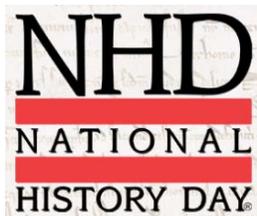
Member at Large – Pat Horoschak

Positions we are still trying to fill:

Treasurer – So Andrea Mitchell can fill a one year position as Asst. Director of Organization

Advocacy – New position to enhance advocacy at local level

Public Relations – vacated by Marcia Verba



LWVCO is sponsoring the special award category of Best Project Related to an Amendment of the U.S. Constitution at National History Day in Colorado 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.

May 4, 2019, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

University of Colorado Denver

For more information contact Sonia Koetting at sonia@fingersfly.com.

Membership

Welcome New Members

Diane Mochizuki, 2732 Fillmore St., 80210, conlon450@mac.com, 720-920-9558

Linda Werner, 4506 Elm Court, 80211, lwerner4506@gmail.com, 508-776-567

Unit Meetings: A place for lively conversation!

Buffalo

Mon., Apr. 8, 5:30 p.m.

Mon., Apr. 22, 5:30 p.m.

Location to be determined

Contact: Joan Friend 303-596-1022

Cheesman

Tue., Apr. 9, 9:30 a.m.

Cindy Sestrich

1144 Lafayette St.

303-832-6739

Tue., Apr. 23, 9:30 a.m.

Marge Fisch

2700 Cherry Crk Dr. S. #101

303-322-4235

Cherrington

Thu., Apr. 11, 1:00 p.m.

Marcia Verba

910 S. Clayton Way

303-629-0614

Thu., Apr. 25, 1:00 p.m.

Martha Lawrenz

8462 E. 29th Pl.

240-461-0882

Highland/Woodbury

Wed., Apr. 24, 5:45 p.m.

W. 29th Avenue Restaurant

5560 W. 29th Ave.

Contact Anne Duncan

773-852-3197

Observatory

Tue., Apr. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Beth Kieft

2565 S. Cherry St.

303-478-6310

Tue., Apr. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Jan Holzmeister

12613 E Bates Cir.

720-535-4500

Whiteman

Tue., Apr. 9, 9:15 a.m.

Location TBD

Tue., Apr. 23, 9:15 a.m.

Location TBD

Contact: Peggy Pitchford

303-638-5534

April Calendar

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- 1 National Popular Vote Compact and Alternative Voting Methods
5:30 p.m., McCollum Room
- 15 Ballot Issues and Hot Legislative Topics
5:30 p.m., McCollum Room
- 18 Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., League Office

Kali Fajardo-Anstine’s Book Launch Party

Our former office manager will launch her book of short stories, *Sabrina & Corina* (One World/ Random House) on Friday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. at Lighthouse Writers Workshop, 1515 Race St. The event is free and open to the public and kicks off a two-month nationwide tour of the collection touted as one of “Our most anticipated books of 2019” by The Millions literary magazine. The much-awaited book has garnered praise from veteran authors Sandra Cisneros and Julia Alvarez.

In Memoriam

Leaguer **Carolyn Engelken’s** husband Pete, passed away in February. Our condolences to Carolyn and her family.

Board Highlights 3/21/2019 Meeting

- In February, the Board voted to remain neutral on the Right to Survive initiative.
- Voted to add our name in support of Every Person Counts in Colorado Act (see article on page 3).
- Voted to send the proposed budget to the members at Annual Meeting.
- Discussed that the tour of Emily Griffith campuses has been postponed until October 3, 2019.
- Pros/Cons pamphlet will be available in April.
- Preliminary plans are underway to start a Saturday Unit.
- Discussed plans to send up to 10 members to the State Convention May 31- June 1. There are some exciting, free workshops planned that all members are encouraged to attend. Look for more information in the May Voter.

Enclosed in the VOTER:

- Award Nomination Form
- Annual Meeting Registration Form
- Proposed budget for 2019-20

Members, offer this application to friends and neighbors!

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 1980 Dahlia Street
 Denver, CO 80220-1239

JOIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Name(s) _____ Email _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

ANNUAL DUES: Regular member \$60.00
 (for Denver, State & Two residing at same address..... \$90.00
 National) Sustaining member \$125.00
 Two sustaining members at same address \$185.00
 Student \$25.00

CONTRIBUTIONS: To LWV Denver \$ _____
 To Dues Assistance Fund \$ _____

Make check payable to LWV Denver. (Dues are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by separate check to LWVD Education Fund.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



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Defending Democracy