



Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

December 2017/January 2018

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Cheesman Members Take RTD to DIA

On a sunny November morning, eight members of the Cheesman Unit had an adventure. Five of us took the RTD bus from Cheesman Park to Union Station and met with three others to board the A-Line train to Denver



International Airport. The bus ride along 12th Avenue had a friendly atmosphere with people greeting the bus driver and thanking him when they departed. Once on the train, we noted the industrial parts of north Denver it flowed through; but then after 40th and Colorado, we were out on the plains and the mountains were beautiful.

Arriving at the DIA station with its array of ponderosa pine beetle-kill trunks (a piece of art) and impressive Westin Hotel architecture above, we were greeted by John Leavitt, Jonathon Rose and Aaron O'Shea, hotel concierges, who gave us an extensive overview of the hotel (did you know it has a signature scent pumped in through the air system?) and explained how the airport deals with celebrities passing through.

John showed us the free skating rink being assembled on the plaza with its spectacular views. He said Lufthansa crew members often skated here in full uniform on their layovers. The outdoor plaza in the middle of the Westin hotel has become a popular venue for concerts and parties.

Apparently, when the airport was being built and lots of tunnels deep underground were constructed, there were theories that it would become a sanctuary for the "New World Order" after the apocalypse. High government officials and special people would come there to survive.



We all smiled, knowing that the vast array of underground tunnels were actually to be used to transport luggage automatically using digital barcodes. Unfortunately, that system was plagued by computer problems and was finally abandoned.

We ascended a two-story escalator to the Great Hall of the terminal and met with Jacquie Rainey, who is in charge of the terminal reconstruction project. She walked us through the phases of rebuilding, starting in April 2018 and lasting three years, which will transform the terminal back into a Great Hall with a park-like atmosphere and move the security screening up to the 6th level. The Great Hall was designed to be an oasis for travelers, but that all changed in 2001 after the September 11th terrorist attack when security screening took over the area.

We were impressed with the amount of planning that has

Program Planning Potluck

Monday, January 8, 5:30 p.m.

League Office

Montview Presbyterian Church

Living in Denver without Documentation

Tuesday, January 23, 5:30 p.m.

Note: Date changed from original calendar

McCullum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

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Program Planning Potluck **Monday, January 8, 5:30 p.m.**

First, we will gather in the League Office for some social time and good food. It is always enjoyable to get together and get the year off to a good start. Then, as in the last few years, we will talk about some of the issues around program planning so that unit members have an idea of what other unit members are thinking. In order to make a recommendation to National, we need to come to consensus. That is almost impossible if we haven't shared some ideas before the program planning briefing and the unit meetings which follow. However, if we agree not to recommend a new study (see accompanying article on page 3), we can use the time for other topics, such as what can we do to make League more meaningful? What are some short term jobs we could use help with?

We'll gather early so we can finish early. We'll provide paper goods, utensils and beverages (unless you want to bring a bottle of wine to share). Bring your favorite dish and join us. If you are too rushed to bring something, please come anyway. All are welcome. We particularly hope each unit is represented.

Marty Sloven, Director of Program
Peggy Pitchford, Assistant Director

Living in Denver without Documentation

Tuesday, January 23
 5:30 p.m. Social Time
 6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room
 Montview Presbyterian Church

Immigration issues continue to be in sharp focus nationally and locally. Over the summer, the Mayor and City Council worked together to pass the Denver Public Safety Enforcement and Priorities Act, which states that "Denver will not engage in immigration enforcement." Colorado leads the states in the number of people living in sanctuary, and Denver was added to the list of "sanctuary cities" threatened with loss of federal funds. Colorado residents without documentation are faced with many challenges to their being able to work, go to school, and raise families here. Confusion about the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has created turmoil for young people who have grown up as Coloradans.

The LWV national immigration position statement supports policies that promote family unification, due process rights and humane treatment. Chris Carson, League's National President, wrote a memo in February stating that "League is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants" and supports localities that "make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions" against these residents.

Our January briefing will provide a panel of knowledgeable speakers on immigration issues: Paul Lopez, Denver City Council member, who worked with the Mayor's office to craft the new ordinance; Jennifer Piper, Interfaith Programming Director of the American Friends Service Committee (Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition); and a representative of Together Colorado/Juntos Colorado, which utilizes community organizing and education to support human rights.

Peg Oldham and Sue Stark

Becoming 501(c)(3)

(This article was largely reproduced from an article written by Toni Larson explaining the conversion of the LWVCO from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3))

In the summer of 2016, LWVCO appointed a task force to research combining the IRS-designated 501(c)(3) charitable and 501(c)(4) social welfare organization of the Colorado League into a 501(c)(3) for the purpose of streamlining the organization. The goal was to clarify LWVCO's image with its members and the public, save volunteer and staff time and money, and increase its fundraising ability. At the 2017 LWVCO Convention, upon the recommendation of the LWVCO and the LWVCO Education Fund boards, the members voted to combine the two entities into one 501(c)(3).

At the November Board meeting of LWVDenver, the boards of both the LWVDenver and the LWVDenver Education Fund voted to recommend to its members at the 2018 Annual Meeting that we follow the lead of the State League and combine the two entities into a 501(c)(3). (Note: The LWV Education Fund Board is made up of the LWVDenver Board and the Secretary and Treasurer of the LWV Ed Fund.) As a first step toward this conversion, between now and May, an LWVDenver task force will revise the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Denver League to reflect the conversion to a single 501(c)(3) organization and present these new bylaws to the members for a vote.

Toni Larson, LWVCO President, has shared a list of the advantages of becoming a 501(c)(3) as well as a list of FAQs about the conversion. Some specific advantages in addition to those mentioned above include:

- Eliminates the need to transfer money between the two organizations (only one Treasurer needed)
- Eliminates the need to prepare two IRS forms and Secretary of State forms and payments
- Simplifies fundraising - all donations and membership dues would be tax-deductible for the donor
- Allows all purchases by the organization to be tax-exempt

If you have any questions or concerns about LWVDenver pursuing this conversion, I would be glad to try to answer them. I prefer email to phone at gordonbutz@me.com.

Also, if you are interested in helping with this effort, I would be glad to hear from you. Especially helpful would be anyone with legal, accounting or non-profit organization knowledge.

Gordon Butz

Treasurer, LWV Education Fund

What Program Planning Means for League

Every year we examine our positions to see if they are still viable and whether we need a study to develop a new position on which to take action. The program planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, update, and/or concurrence. Program is the basis for much that League does and, in particular, for the League's education and action efforts. This year we look at national positions. On odd-numbered years, we look at state and local positions. As LWVUS did two years ago, National has asked us again not to suggest new studies but to continue to work hard at Making Democracy Work, focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting. If we honor that request, program planning will be very simple this year. But we will go through the process, giving us an opportunity to add some other topics to the potluck and to the briefing on February 5.

Units Choose in December

December Unit meetings have always been described as “Unit’s Choice,” a chance for Units to choose activities rather than discuss a previous briefing. Cherrington usually meets for a field trip and this year they are visiting the Black American Western Museum. Cheesman celebrated with lunch at the Art Hotel. Observatory Unit’s potluck holiday lunch and book swap was hosted this year by Sarah McCarthy. A potluck holiday dinner at Anne Duncan’s home was Unit’s Choice for Highland/Woodbury, and Buffalo Unit gathered for an evening potluck at Nancy Ulrich’s home. St. Vrain Unit chose to finalize plans for members’ Puerto Rico contributions at their final November meeting. Whiteman always celebrates with a holiday lunch and the Secret Santa and White Elephant auction (the proceeds counting toward Whiteman’s Unit Pledge). This year, Joyce Solomon was the host.

Glenda Prosser
Unit Organization

Thanks to Volunteers for 2017 Election Cycle

2017 was a less active election cycle, well sort of. Four school board seats, including one at-large, all had at least two candidates.

Many thanks to our Denver Decides committee members who met several times prior to our televised events. On-going LWV committee members include Pearlanne Zelarney, Marge Fisch, Marcia Verba, and Jeanette Scotland. Volunteers included Mary Ann Thompson, Marge Fisch, and Bobbie Heisterkamp. I hope I have not left any one out!

Thanks to a grant from LWVCO, we purchased an ad in *Front Porch* to publicize our Denver Decides forums. That paper reaches the largest number of voters in the city (particularly Northeast Denver). Additionally, the *Front Porch* printed a great deal of voter information. We certainly hope that continues.

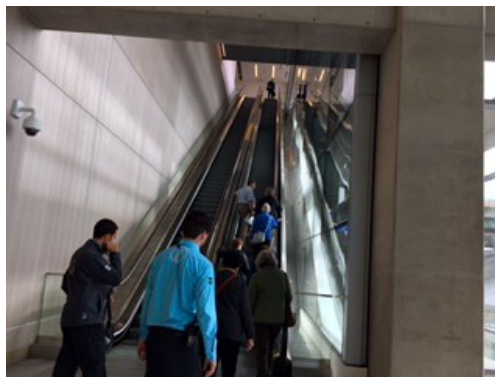
Nancy Ulrich

(Continued from page 1)

gone into this \$1.3 billion plan, approved by Denver City Council August 29. There is a public-private partnership with DIA and Ferrovial Airports based in Madrid, Spain. Ferrovial will perform the reconstruction in return for control of the concessions on level 5 and a carefully structured DIA monetary payback over 34 years. DIA does not use taxpayer dollars, but is funded by airline leases and concession and passenger fees.

Our adventure was very timely as City Council had just approved the \$1.5 billion 39-gate expansion the night before. Fentress Architecture Firm originally designed the airport with a great deal of forethought so

that it could expand. The three concourses will telescope out to their full length at a construction cost that is much less than building a fourth concourse.



The airport opened in 1995 and was designed to carry 50 million passengers a year. Last year the number of passengers was 58.3 million, and this year is on track to exceed that number. The expansion plans are estimated to increase the airport capacity to 80 million annual passengers. The new flow of passenger traffic will also improve the safety of the security screening area.

Our Cheesman group had a delicious lunch at the Grill & Vine, a gourmet restaurant at the Westin and used the A-line to return home. We thanked Cindy Sestrich heartily for planning this unique experience.

Bobbie Heisterkamp

Voter Service in 2018

Voter Service is a major key to Making Democracy Work, the State and National focus for advocacy. So come join with others and carry out projects for the 2018 election. We will do voter registration for new U.S. citizens, help people who may need to update their registration, and find populations that have not yet registered. We will also look to set up a voter registration table at special weekend events in the spring and summer in Denver such as Taste of Colorado. Since getting registered voters to the polls is a final and important step, we will explore what role the League can play in that effort. So if you like to talk with people and want to make a difference in the 2018 elections, please give me a call at 303-479-4368 or email me at jscotland@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jeanette Scotland
Voter Service Chair

District of Columbia Statehood: New Columbia, an Opportunity to Act

The population size of Washington D.C. and Denver are quite similar. In 2016, Denver had 699,729 residents and D.C. had 681,170. Imagine, however, if Denver had no voice in the federal government or even control over the city's own laws and budget. That is what D.C. residents experience.

The citizens of the District voted overwhelmingly in November 2016, to seek statehood and then petitioned Congress to become a state: New Columbia. The bill known as the New Columbia Admission Act was introduced in both the House and the Senate in January of 2017. HB 1291 has 136 co-sponsors including Colorado Representatives DeGette, Perlmutter, and Polis. The Senate Bill, SB 1278 has 19 co-sponsors, but THERE ARE NO COLORADO CO-SPONSORS!

League has long supported and worked for equal representation of D.C. in the Congress. In 1978 League supported a constitutional amendment giving voters in the District a vote in Congress. Sixteen states ratified it before its time limit occurred.

Now we can ACT AGAIN. Please support the D.C. League of Women Voters and all D.C. residents by urging Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner to add their names as co-sponsors. Stamped postcards are available at each briefing and at the office, and of course, you can always call or email.

Jeanette Scotland
Observatory Unit

Follow-Up to City Council Briefing

Below is a link to an article on City Council's comments on the Mayor's budget for 2018. It's quite a nice follow-up to our November briefing, especially about how the system of checks and balances works. I would also like to introduce our membership to a very good blog - Denverite. It's a fantastic collection of younger journalists who understand Denver's issues and go beyond the Denver Post's capabilities nowadays. I follow it more than I do the Denver Post as they concentrate on Denver government.

Cindy Sestrich

[Denver Affordable House Budget Passes—Denverite.com](http://denverite.com)

Unit Meetings: A place for lively conversation!

Buffalo

Mon., Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m.

Potluck at Nancy Ulrich's home

Mon., Jan. 29, 5:30 p.m.

Location to be determined

Contact Joan Friend for more info.

303-596-1022

Cheesman

Tue., Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.

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

Topic: Denver Parks with

Brad Cameron

Location to be determined

Contact **Cindy Sestrich** for info

cinbob11@hotmail.com

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

Note date change

Daniels Fund Conference Room

101 Monroe St.

Contact **Cindy** for info

Cherrington

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

Peg Oldham

9355 E. Center Ave., #5B

720-220-3988

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

Carol Lassen

2990 E. 17th Ave., #1305

303-355-5896

Highland/Woodbury

Wed., Jan. 3, 5:45 p.m.

W. 29th Avenue Restaurant

5560 W. 29th Ave.

Contact **Sally Augden**

303-455-5800

Observatory

Sat., Dec. 9, 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Pot Luck

Sarah McCarthy's home

Date to be determined, 7:00 p.m.

Marion Colliander

5442 Tennessee Ave.

303-322-3926

St. Vrain

Wed., Jan. 24, 9:15 a.m.

Vivian Dodds

1565 S. Dexter Way

303-756-0150

Whiteman

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

Joanne Kouris-Bell

3455 S. Corona St. #626

303-934-3309

Tue., Jan. 30, 9:15 a.m.

Note date change

Louise Haggerty

3333 East Florida Avenue, #103

303-733-6008

January Calendar

Sun	Mon	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	31			

- 2 Office Hours resume
- 8 Program Planning Potluck, 5:30 p.m., League Office
- 9 Education Fund Meeting and Board Meeting, 3:00 p.m., League Office
- 15 MLK Holiday, Office closed
- 20 Board Retreat
- 23 Immigration Briefing, 5:30 p.m., McCollum Room
- 29 Legislative Conference

LWV Denver wishes all our members a very happy holidays! The League office will be closed from December 15 - January 2. Our normal office hours, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

Improve Office Design

The League office is in need of an interior design guru. League has a number of underutilized shelves and desks in our office. If there are any members interested in helping us whip our office feng shui into shape, we'd love to have your assistance. Please contact Kali at the office at 303-321-7571.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Lori Holland, 1000 Speer Blvd #1011, loriholland@yahoo.com

Sandra Mandel, 3366 S. Emporia Ct., 720-224-3737

Margaret Perl, 3041 S. Xeric Ct., 303-495-4765

In Memoriam

Longtime Leaguer and member of Cheesman Unit, **Alice Millett Bakemeier**, passed away in October. A few years ago, Alice was invited to step "out of retirement" and join the committee tasked with the LWVUS Agriculture update. Armed with excellent research and writing skills, she especially excelled in exploring all sides of a subject. However, when the question of GMOs appeared, Alice took the 'pro' side for GMOs. As she explained, "It's more of a challenge!" Alice was a member of many organizations and a noted writer. She was honored by the Colorado Historical Society for her contributions to local history. LWVD is richer for her membership.

Glenda Prosser

We also send our sympathies to the family and friends of longtime League member **Rose Maruyama**, who was a member of St. Vrain Unit and served on our board as membership chair.

Members, offer this application to friends and neighbors!

League of Women Voters of Denver
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220-1239

JOIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Name(s) _____ Email _____
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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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Recent Briefings

City Council Members Jolon Clark (District 7), Stacie Gilmore (District 11), Kevin Flynn (District 2), and Paul Kashmann (District 6) at our City Issues Briefing on November 16.



Marty Sloven, Anne Anderson, speaker and Chair of the LWVDC Committee for Full Rights for DC Citizens, and Patty Cordova at the Washington, D.C. briefing on November 2.