



Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

Summer 2017

www.LWVDenver.org
info@LWVDenver.org

1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

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

Work, Learn, Honor and Fun + Fundraising LWVCO Convention May 20-21

State League Convention 2017 was all of the above. We got down to business immediately after opening remarks by Ft. Collins Mayor Pro Tem, Gerry Horak, who lauded the League for its knowledge, voter registration and get-out-the vote activities. Under expertly orchestrated direction, through complicated parliamentary maneuvers, the League changed to a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It will make administration of funds simpler and ends the LWVCO Education Fund.

Two significant changes to program were passed. Most significantly the State League adopted by concurrence the Boulder County position to support alternatives to plurality voting (see position statement below). Before the vote was taken, delegates attended caucuses in which background information was shared and questions answered. Debate was informative and members were supportive of the concurrence. Also, the position to drop support of caucuses was adopted as League does not insert itself in partisan functioning.

League members learned how the Larimer County League worked with numerous organizations to pass the Open Space Tax so that the county could implement its Parks Master Plan. An update on Money in Politics was also presented. Information on many ways different localities provide funds for publicly funded campaigns was provided, and delegates were urged to get further information at the LWV Boulder County website and view the video League has produced.

As for honors, Flodie Anderson of Jefferson County League was honored with a life-time achievement award. Two other individuals from Boulder County and Estes Park Leagues were honored as well as the Pueblo and Boulder County Leagues with the LWVCO Community Connections Awards. Grass doesn't grow under the feet of Leaguers.

Have a Great Summer!

*We look forward
to seeing all our members in September.*

We had fun too: some of us went to several locations in Ft. Collins: the Raptor Center, a Victorian house, and (believe it or not) the Garbage Garage!

Finally, Gail Beaton entertained us as "Rosie the Riveter" detailing women's lives in Denver on the home front during WWII. Fundraising netted over \$3,000 in a silent auction.

Jeanette Scotland

POSITION STATEMENT

The League supports authorizing and implementing alternatives to plurality voting that allow people to express their preferences more effectively. The League supports gaining on-the-ground experience with alternative voting methods in order to ascertain whether a voting method results in outcomes that match voters' preferences as recorded on their ballots. The League supports voting methods that improve the election experience, that encourage honest voting rather than tactical* voting, and that consider ease of implementation.*

Considerations:

- Some voting methods are intended for single-winner elections, others for multi-winner elections. It is important that the intended use of a voting method match its actual application. Multi-winner voting methods can promote proportional representation which fosters diversity of our elected officials.
- Election officials should conduct post-election analysis to evaluate the voters' usage of the voting method and the election's reflection of voters' stated preferences. There should be sufficient data transparency--for example, access to ballot records in anonymous form--for an independent analysis to be conducted by other interested groups.

*A voting method encourages "honest" voting when it allows voters to meaningfully support all their preferred candidates, rather than leading them to either not support their favorite or "tactically" indicate a higher preference for a candidate who is not their favorite.

Volume 2017, Issue #6
Periodicals postage paid
at Denver, Colorado

Denver VOTER
(USPS 019817)
Published twice in
September and monthly
January through June by:

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DENVER**

1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220
303-321-7571
Fax: 303-320-8557

www.LWVDenver.org
info@LWVDenver.org

A one-year subscription is included
in annual membership dues.

Director of Organization
Marge Fisch

Director of Program
Marty Sloven

Director of Communications
Pearlanne Zelarney

Acting Secretary
Andrea Mitchell

Treasurer
Catherine Decker

Denver VOTER Editor
Pearlanne Zelarney

Denver VOTER Assistant Editor
Marty Sloven

Office Manager
Kali Fajardo-Anstine

Postmaster, please send
address changes to:

Denver VOTER
LWV Denver
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

Save the Date
This Exciting Event will be Our Fall Kick-Off

It's Our Turn to Celebrate!
League of Women Voters of Denver
Turns 85

*Celebrating 85 years of serving the Denver community with studies
on key city issues, advocacy and voter service*

Our newly published **LWVD History Book 1932-2017** tells
our remarkable story.

The Birthday Party/History Book Presentation will take place

Thursday, September 14, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

at

The Brown Palace Hotel

Our Co-Sponsor

Anne Trujillo of Channel 7 will emcee

You can reserve your spot now at
[http://lwvdenver.org/lwv-denvers-85th-birthday-
celebration.html](http://lwvdenver.org/lwv-denvers-85th-birthday-celebration.html)

Bulb Sale Results Down, but Still Impressive

Because we had such an amazingly successful sale last year, this year's totals were disappointing. However, any other year we would be very happy with the sale. We sold just over \$19,000.00 worth of bulbs with some help from Jefferson County and Boulder County Leagues. Their figures were somewhat down as well. Looking back at 2015, we were so happy with \$19,000.00 because the totals had been spiraling downward. So thank you so much to those who sold, bought, or made contributions to the sale. \$340.00 was donated to Beautify Denver, an opportunity to donate bulbs primarily to Denver parks. Almost \$1500.00 was donated directly to the Denver League.

We traditionally recognize those who sell or donate \$200 or more to the sale. In that category were Twyla Boe, Mary Ann Casey, Catherine Decker, Barbara Ford, Elsie Haley, Peggy Pitchford, and Cindy Sestrich. Selling over \$300 were Vivian Dodds, Ann Duncan, Mary Ann Feldman-Lang, Paula Frease, Marcia Johnson, Ali Mickelson, Rose Tanaka, Nancy Ulrich and Mary Werner. Selling over \$500 were Sally Augden, Ruth Cambier, Patty Cordova, Marge Fisch, Norma Heinz, and Susan Stark. Selling over \$700 were Bobbie Heisterkamp, Andrea Mitchell, and Peg Oldham. Pearlanne Zelarney sold over \$1000 worth of bulbs, and Marty Sloven sold over \$3000.

Special thanks always to Ruth Cambier who does all the computer work for the sale and has since the beginning of the sale 25 years ago. Thanks also to Andrea Mitchell who checked over many of the order forms to prepare them for computer entry and for packaging in October. We could not have an office if were not for this sale. I hope those who took a break this year will be back on board next year. The sale needs your support.

Marty Sloven
Flower Bulb Sale Chair

Shirley Weaver Suffragist Award

Sally Augden was the recipient of this year's Shirley Weaver Suffragist Lifetime Achievement Award. Sally recognized the value of League early, but when she rejoined League in 2003 she jumped right in to being active. She has been the Chair and Co-Chair of the Highland/Woodbury Unit many times as well as other offices in the unit.

She has been on the State League Legislative Action Committee for a number of years as well as working on the Legislative Newsletter. Sally has testified many times before the State Legislature in both houses.

When the Denver League was having its Legislative Breakfasts, Sally helped organize and chaired the committee to set that up.

Sally's real passion is for EDUCATION. She has been chair of the Education Committee and has set up and helped set up numerous briefings and panels on what is happening in education in the Denver Public Schools. Recently she was responsible for a panel offering information on various organizations of parent involvement in DPS schools.

Sally frequently contributes articles to the *Voter* and is one of the top sellers in our annual bulb sale fund raiser.

She truly deserves this award!

Mary Ann Feldman-Lang



Sally and Mary Ann at Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting 2017

As our membership numbers have decreased in the last decade, our Annual Meeting participant numbers had followed. Can a two-year increase show a more positive trend? Over 72 members and friends filled the room at the Park Hill Golf Club this year, up from 61 in 2016. Let's keep the momentum going!

Learn about the presentation of Hava Gordon, Sociologist Assistant Professor at DU, in a detailed article on the next page. The business portion of the meeting contained reports from the various areas that keep the League running efficiently. Here are a few interesting facts:

Laurie Segall, Budget Chair, said our organization is in good fiscal shape with a very successful bulb sale in 2016. The budget income is the projected income from membership dues based on 235 members.



Marge and Hava.

Director of Program, Marty Sloven, and Assistant Director of Program, Peggy Pitchford, continue to see large attendance at the briefings. Members are encouraged to advocate for our positions with state, local and national legislators through stamped postcards, available for mailing at all unit meetings.

The LWVD Awards of 2017 were presented and both recipients were pleasantly surprised.

Lorie Young, representing the History Committee, talked about the upcoming culmination of the work done the last two years. It will be a 85th book publication and birthday party held on September 14 at the Brown Palace Hotel.

And continuing in the party mode, another historical event will be held on August 20 celebrating the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. This event will be held at the Molly Brown Summer House and will be sponsored by the State League. Mary Dee Morrow and Patty Cordova represent Denver in this endeavor. Watch for invitations to both events.

The Future Fund, established in September, 2016, has set a goal of raising \$100,000 in the next three years. To date we have raised \$30,000. Please consider a contribution to assure the continuation of the Denver League.

The Board of Directors were introduced with the addition of Jeanette Scotland and Brenda Sanders. Nancy Ulrich leaves the board after many years in the capacity of President, master electronic technology guru and most recently Voter Service Chair.

We thank all our past board members who continue to share their expertise with us.

Marge Fisch
Director of Organization

Mother Lode Award

The Marty Sloven Mother Lode Award is an award given for a special effort and contribution during the past year. The 2017 award was given to Sue Stark who chaired the Women to Watch Committee. It culminated in the celebration of 13 women selected for their inspiring stories of barriers faced and successes achieved. With her committee, Sue put all her passion into every element on the reception, which was colorful, inclusive and uplifting. The League theme, Making Democracy Work, was demonstrated at this event.

This year Sue contributed a Voter article on the Delores Project that the Chessman Unit visited. She, with others, keeps our members informed about Denver's continuing efforts to assist our homeless population. In addition, she attends the Legislative Councils' bi-monthly meetings held during the legislative session. We will be watching Sue as she shares her ideas and continued involvement with program planning.

Barbara Ford
Membership Chair



Sue at work at a briefing on homelessness.

Annual Meeting Speaker

“...people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute”

—Rebecca West, *British feminist and author*

LWV Denver was fortunate to have Dr. Hava Gordon, sociologist and feminist scholar, address our 2017 Annual Meeting. The topic of her talk was “Third Wave Feminism and the US presidential election.” Beginning by defining feminism in several different ways, Dr. Gordon reviewed the main “waves” of feminism including:

- Suffrage – The first wave of feminism was focused on gaining the vote which resulted in the 19th amendment to the US constitution.
- Liberal Feminism – This phase from the 1920s to the 1960s appealed to older, white, middle class women and focused on equality of work and education opportunities.
- Multi-racial feminism – The latest wave originated from women in both women’s liberation and anti-racist movements and advocates for a more complex construct – the intersectionality between racism, sexism, classism, and other hierarchies.

In the 1980’s we saw a backlash against feminism including failure of the Equal Rights Amendment to be ratified and placed in the constitution in 1982.

How did women vote in the November election? Reinforcing the multi-cultural, multi-racial idea of feminism, women voted in different percentages depending on race, class, and education. Some of the research findings include the following:

There was low voter turnout:

- 54% of eligible citizens voted; this was the lowest turnout in 20 years.
- Record numbers of working-class white Democrats who had voted Democratic in 2012 did not turn out for this election. The decline in Democratic voting from 2012 to 2016 was 3.5x greater than the rise in Republican voting.
- Among white voters in general, decline in Democratic voting was 2.1x greater than the rise in Republican voting.

Race was a factor:

- 58% of white voters supported Trump (compared to 37% for Clinton); 54% of white women voted for Trump.
- Blacks and Latinos comprised 31% of the eligible electorate and did not turn out in big enough numbers to upset Trump victories in key states (Black turnout was 88% compared to 94% in 2012, and Latino turnout was 65% compared to 71%).

Education played a part:

- 67% of those without a college degree voted for Trump, compared with 28% who voted for Clinton.
- Trump also won whites with a college degree, 49% vs. 45% for Clinton.
- 62% of white women without college degrees voted for Trump; 45% of white women with college degrees voted for Trump.

Family Income/class:

- While popular wisdom has it that Trump appealed to the working class, the median family income of a Trump supporter was \$71,000 compared to \$61,000 for Clinton supporters.

Gender:

- Clinton lost men’s votes by 12.5%, the worst Democratic loss of men’s votes since 1988.
- 54% of women voters supported Clinton, 42% voted for Trump (this was almost identical for men, reversed – more men voted for Trump). This was the largest gender gap in voting since 1972.
- The drivers of this gap were Black and Latina women, 94% and 68% respectively who voted for Clinton.

So, nothing is simple – categorizing voters is fraught with the same class, gender, and race issues that plague society at large. Anybody who says it’s simple is not well informed.

Andrea Mitchell
Board Secretary

News of Note: Short-Term Rentals

A June 26 article from [Colorado Public Radio](#) (CPR) gives an insightful picture of the challenges and opportunities created by Denver's short-term rental businesses. While short-term rentals have the potential of bringing welcome revenue to homeowners, not to mention the city tax base, some short-term rentals can also be highly disruptive of established neighborhoods.

The City Council has acted to alleviate some of the problems. Last year they passed legislation to allow only primary residents to host, which limits the impact on neighborhoods.

As the CPR article points out, the new "regulations are Denver's first attempt to get a handle on the relatively new industry that pitted neighborhood advocates and city officials against professional landlords." And the new regulations have gotten off to a very good start with more than half of the listings properly licensed. "While other cities have struggled to get hosts to comply with their local rules, Denver's compliance rate is currently at an impressive 62 percent. It's also the first U.S. city to allow hosts to get the necessary license and permit online."

Cindy Sestrich, the Denver League's tireless advocate for Denver neighborhoods and a member of the advisory committee working with the Excise and Licensing Department on this issue, commented that "for now, I just think it's going in the right direction."

Carol Andersen

A Fix for Gerrymandering

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) is taking a leadership role in a broadly-based, bipartisan coalition that is tackling difficult issues in the state's approach to redistricting. The coalition's objective is to develop a ballot initiative for the 2018 election that would further improve the Colorado Reapportionment Commission by including more unaffiliated voters in the decision making process.

According to a July 2 [Denver Post article](#), the coalition's draft proposal includes an equal number of politicians from both parties and "would seek to remake the state legislative redistricting commission by requiring that at least three of its 11 members be unaffiliated. It would also try to enforce bipartisan consensus by requiring a supermajority vote to adopt any map." In the current commission, which the League was instrumental in establishing in 1974, both parties are equally represented but there is only one additional unaffiliated member. According to the article, unaffiliated voters represent approximately 35 percent of the state's active voters.

The state legislative districts are one of two redistricting challenges since a recent court decision confirmed that Congressional redistricting can also be done by the state. The committee anticipates including responsibility for both state legislative and Congressional districts in the restructured commission.

The League's efforts are led by Toni Larson, LWVCO Vice President for Program (toni.larson@gmail.com) and Barbara Mattison, immediate past president (mattisonleague@gmail.com). Both are LWV Denver members.

Carol Andersen

Summer Office Hours

Hours for the rest of July will be flexible. Emails and messages will be checked regularly. Leave a message and someone will get back to you. Hours in August should be back to normal: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Any changes will be on the voice message. Any questions or problems, call Marge Fisch, 303-322-4235.

Membership Roster

It's that time of year again. We will be updating the Roster and want to have the most current information for our members. We send so much by email now—please check your listing for accuracy and send us your email if you haven't already.



In Memoriam

Our sympathy goes out to the friends and family of **Genny Weston**, a life-time League member who died in April in Kansas. She was the long-time co-chair of the Denver City Issues Committee.

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 _____
 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 \$ _____



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

Periodical Postage
Paid in Denver



LWVD at the Park Hill 4th of July Parade

12 of our members marched and it was great fun. We had the large league banner and carried American flags and a red white and blue pinwheel. We handed out small patriotic tattoos to children that encouraged them to vote at 18. Our reception was warm and enthusiastic. Thanks to Patty Cordova and Joan Friend for organizing.

Rona Shor