



Making Democracy Work™

Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

Summer2018

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Recap of Annual Meeting

Lynn Bartels, Communications Director for the Colorado Secretary of State, was our entertaining and informative keynote speaker. She worked as a journalist for 35 years, including 16 years at the Rocky Mountain News and six years at the Denver Post, before retiring in 2015 and going to work as the spokeswoman for the Secretary of State's Office. She took us through a tour of her career and spoke on the importance of the free press and voting.

Here are some highlights from the business meeting:

- The Treasurer and Budget reports drew some questions from our members. We continue to be in good fiscal shape although dependent on bulb sales to sustain this position. Income is also dependent on membership dues based on a projection of 230 members.
- Many members have stepped up to assist our Director of Program Marty Sloven in planning and directing our many and varied briefings that are well attended.
- The Denver League has joined national and state Leagues in making a major change to our structure. Bobbie Heisterkamp walked us through the steps needed to be completed to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit. A paper vote was taken and was unanimous in accepting these changes. In a few months we will be a single organization. One of the main benefits is that all donations and member dues will now be tax deductible.
- We recognized four special members with awards (see article on page 4).
- We thanked three out-going board members for their years of service and welcomed five new members.
- The meeting concluded with directions to the Board, which consisted of many ideas that the board had

Have a Great Summer!

We look forward to seeing you all in September.

also discussed at a strategy session. They involved ways to increase membership, develop affiliations with other groups, and enhance communications.

Marge Fisch, Director of Organization



Lynn Bartels
@lynn_bartels

Following

I'm the speaker today at the Denver League of Women Voters breakfast at the Park Hill Golf Course clubhouse. #copolitics



Lynn tweeted about us right after her talk.

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Another Successful Bulb Sale

I was worried this year because fewer packets went out than usual, and in the final count only 30 Denver Leaguers actually **sold** bulbs. However, others bought bulbs for themselves, many generously, or made generous contributions. All are important and help fund our office and our office manager.

We may never again reach the totals of our banner year two years ago. However, total sales this year were higher than last. Denver's sales were about the same, but we can thank Boulder County League for an outstanding sale (over \$2600) and solid numbers from Jefferson County League (over \$800). Since we do all the computer work and packaging, their sales also help us. We also had close to \$400 contributed to Beautify Denver, which means bulbs are contributed primarily to Denver Parks, and over \$1600 contributed directly to Denver League.

We traditionally recognize those who sell or contribute \$200 or more. That first group includes Twyla Boe, Ruth Cambier, Mary Ann Casey, Bonnie Clarke, Anne Duncan, Sally Isaacson, Sarah McCarthy, Rona Shor, Rose Tanaka, and Carol Tone. Those who sold or donated \$400 or more are Sally Augden, Mary Ann Feldman-Lang, Paula Frease, Norma Heinz, Peg Oldham, Brenda Sanders, Alice Silver, and Nancy Ulrich. Members who sold and/or donated \$600 or more are Patty Cordova, Marge Fisch, Jeanette Scotland, Mary Werner, and Pearlanne Zelarney. We give special thanks to Bobbie Heisterkamp and Andrea Mitchell who sold over \$1000 worth of bulbs. And I had my best year ever, coming in at over \$4500.



Special thanks go to Leaguer Ruth Cambier who helped develop this sale 25 years ago and continues to do the computer work. Not sure what we would do without her. Thanks to all of you who supported the sale in so many ways. We had several members who sold for the first time and we appreciate their stepping up. Many of you will be there in October to help sort and package the orders. Since we buy in bulk we always have extra bulbs for sale in October. Let me know now or then if you are interested.

Marty Sloven
Bulb Sale Chair

Program Meeting Planned for July 11

We are planning a program meeting Wednesday, July 11 at 1:00 p.m. at the League office to start developing the League calendar for this fall. We will probably do some planning for 2019 as well since much of this fall will revolve around the election. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. Bring your ideas for briefings. We will also discuss the results of the surveys many of you filled out concerning program.

Marty Sloven, Director of Program
Peggy Pitchford, Assistant Director of Program

Voter Service

Central to the League — Crucial for our Democracy

So you want to work on this year's election? Great! Contact us so that you can be signed up to register people to vote, work on League's brochure of pros and cons for City ballot issues, and/or present to organizations that request speakers on the issues. There is excitement in the air and we know you won't want to miss out on this historic event.

Jeanette Scotland
jscotland@gmail.com, 303-479-4368

Anne Duncan
anned47@msn.com, 773-852-3197



Five Denver League members helped eight out of 30 newly naturalized citizens to register to vote at the Aurora Strong Resilience Center on June 21: Joan Friend, Marcia Helfant, Jeanette Scotland, Sheila and Stu Bernhard. It is always moving to witness this event and help new citizens become voters.



League members have been busy over the last few weeks making sure as many potential voters as possible are registered. Management of the Alamo Drafthouse theaters in Denver and Littleton invited the League to do voter registration during the opening weekend of the documentary film about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, *RBG*. At the Colfax location on May 10, 12 members of the Highland/Woodbury Unit – and a few helpful guests – registered voters, gave out information on the upcoming primaries, and raised awareness of the League. We also enjoyed the movie!

On a beautiful Saturday in early June a group set up a table and circulated among attendees at an event supporting gun safety. While the vast majority were already registered, we did catch a few new residents, people who needed to update their registration, and a sixteen-year-old eligible to pre-register. We'll be doing more over the summer and in the fall before election Day.

Anne Duncan, Voter Service Co-Chair

Advocacy with City Council

The LWV Denver Board voted on June 12 to send a letter to the Denver City Council asking them to vote no on bill 18-0614. This bill, proposed by Councilperson Kevin Flynn, changes the Code of Ethics and was in response to a Board of Ethics advisory opinion that elected officials should abide by the same rules and limitations regarding accepting gifts from city departments as they do for gifts from private parties. The proposed changes to the code of ethics would limit the definition of donor to only entities outside of the city. It also increases some reporting. League of Women Voters of Denver supports the Board of Ethics and a robust code of ethics. City Council and leaders in city departments have oversight over agency budgets and large contracts

and must avoid favoritism or the appearance of impropriety. After we received responses from Flynn and Councilperson Espinoza, we followed up with two additional letters. We stated that any amendment to the city's ethics code to allow, in particular, gifts of business class airline tickets from the Department of Aviation (an enterprise as defined by the Colorado Constitution) without the same rules and limitations is inappropriate. The Council will vote on the issue at their July 9 meeting. Colorado Public Radio has written several pieces on this topic: <http://www.cpr.org/news/story/denver-ethics-meeting-gets-testy-over-city-council-gifts>

Pearlann Zelarney, Director of Communication

Honored Women of 2018

PEG OLDHAM

The Shirley Weaver Suffragist Award for lifetime achievement was presented to Peg for her many years of involvement with League activities. She has served as Program Vice-President and continues to organize a briefing most years. We rely on Peg as a critical thinker with a great deal of background knowledge in topics such as finance, constitutional issues and immigration. She also continues to have a leadership role with Cherrington Unit.



ANDREA MITCHELL AND JEANETTE SCOTLAND

The Marty Sloven Mother Lode Award is for special effort and contributions during the past year. This year the award was shared by two relatively new members to the Denver League. Both have taken on leadership roles in their units, led the board through a strategic planning session, and served on the State League Board as Co-Secretaries. Jeanette is Voter Service Chair

and has focused time and energy registering voters and securing a number of volunteers to help with the 2018 election. Andrea stepped up to become treasurer and has given the office guidance on computer issues.

LORIE YOUNG

A very special award was given to a special Leaguer for a very special event that only happens once. Lorie conceived, produced and directed the 85th Anniversary event at the Brown Palace Hotel. With a stellar committee by her side, the party was a resounding success. All attendees also received a copy of *A Brief History of the LWVD 1932-2017: 85 Years of Service, Education and Advocacy*. Lorie was not able to attend Annual Meeting, but Marge Fisch later delivered the lovely award (pictured at left) to her personally.



**2018-2019 Board Members
at Annual Meeting**



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Council program began with a training workshop on how to become a 501(c)(3) organization. Several Leagues attended and gained information related to the benefits, forms and prerequisites related to the new IRS designation. Additional information related to the IRS, for instance how to handle donor contributions, deductions, and sales tax exemption, was part of this informative workshop.

LWV Denver hosted the Colorado State Council on June 1-2. Marge Fisch, Peg Oldham, Mina Soltz, and Pam Hovik led the planning. Many volunteers from LWV Denver provided help with delegate greeting, registration, providing directions, and hosting tours. Thanks to all who volunteered.



The Council business meeting was led by LWVCO President Toni Larson and included a presentation by Denver City Councilperson Kendra Black. She reported on her accomplishments and the due process of a councilperson as well as the importance of knowing your local officials.

Each League reported on accomplishments and projects during this past year. Highlights included collaboration with their local libraries, candidate forums, reducing the use of plastic bags, climate change, leadership and membership development, and voter registration. One League

that does a pros and cons booklet on issues offered to coordinate with other Leagues in getting information out into communities.

An underlying factor for many Leagues is the need to increase visibility and collaboration in their community. One League registered high school students, then trained them on how to use voting equipment. This League had the students talk about their experience in this process,

then gave them membership in the LWV! Other Leagues had increases in membership and worked on issues related to money in politics and the electoral college. One League obtained a grant to work on the opioid epidemic in their community. A new League is forming in San Luis Valley.

Two tours were offered: to Dahlia Behavioral Health Center or Bluff Lake Nature Center. Friday evening

included a celebration dinner and evening training sessions on budgeting and voter education. Saturday began with a League Leaders' Breakfast and discussions pertaining to League's interests.

The Colorado General Assembly Legislative Wrap-up included a 22-page informative handout from the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee. Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO lobbyist, reported there were 25 volunteer lobbyists who met bi-weekly. They took action on bills impacting the League's positions. This past session they followed 90 bills relating to the justice

(Continued on page 6)

Unit Meetings: A place for lively conversation!

Check back in this space in the September VOTER to find small groups of committed Leaguers to share conversations on issues of importance!

Grocery Cards

LWVD will no longer carry Sprouts grocery cards as they have changed their rewards program. Additionally, Safeway encourages you to spend down the older reloadable "tomato" cards and acquire a new more secure card from the LWVD office. Their new reloadable cards have higher security measures to prevent gift card fraud. This does not impact those who have bought new Safeway cards in the past six months.

Thanks!

Kali Fajardo-Anstine, Office Manager

Roster

More and more League communication is done through email. If you have an email that is not on record with the League, please consider sharing it with our office. If you have any changes to your contact information since the last roster, please let us know.

Office Hours

There will be no regular office hours in July. E-mails and phone calls will be checked. For questions or concerns, call Marge Fisch at 303-322-4235. Kali returns and regular office hours will resume on August 6.



Marcia Verba, Cindy Sestrich, and Lynn Bartels
at Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

system, environment and natural resources, K-12 funding, transportation and infrastructure, Gallagher Amendment reform, and PERA solvency. Five out of the six bills to address the opioid crisis passed. Philosophically, Andrea felt the gas tax issues should be reframed as a question of "Why not raise taxes on oil company revenue?" She reported on the "Zombie Bills," politically motivated as opposed to policy making, and are a byproduct of the split party control in the chambers. Andrea related that sexual harassment is an issue at the legislature, and cultural change and an independent advisory board are needed. The State Budget has two billion dollars more this year resulting in more money for key programs and services such as transportation, PERA, and K-12 education.

The statewide election 2018 preview included presentations from LWVCO VP Voter Services Gerry Cummins, and Vote411.org Coordinators Anne Thompson and Cath Perrone. Emma Marion, Boulder Project Manager for New ERA Colorado shared expert experience and coordinated three groups related to Fund Raising, Partnership and Collaboration, and increasing membership of millennials. LWVCO collected the data and will distribute the information to all local Leagues.

Brenda Sanders
LWV Denver Delegate



In Memoriam

We were devastated at the loss of long-time League member and current Treasurer **Catherine Decker** after a lengthy illness. Catherine had been treasurer of the Denver League and the Colorado League for multiple terms. She was also the recipient of the Shirley Weaver Suffragist Award in 2014 for lifetime achievement.

We were also recently saddened to hear of the death of long-time Leaguer **Dorothy Sobol**. Dot was co-chair of the City Issues Committee for an amazing number of years and often served on the board in that capacity. She was the recipient of the lifetime Suffragist Award in 1993. Dot had been in a number of units, most recently St. Vrain.

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 \$ _____



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**Another Excellent Legislative Wrap-Up
by Denver members of the LAC**

Pictured here, Carla Bennet, Carol Pace, Sally Augden,
Frank Bennet, Andrea Wilkins. Not pictured, Carol Tone.

**Good breakfast and conversation at
Annual Meeting**

