



Boulder County Voter
League of Women Voters of Boulder County
lwwbc.org
March 2015 Members 160
Follow us on Facebook.com/lwwbc.org

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Meet Your Legislators**
- **President's Letter**
- **Change in Units**
- **Campaign Financing**
- **Strategic Planning Update**
- **Thanks to Donors**
- **Member Survey Results**
- **May State League Convention Here, Volunteers Needed!**

MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS

Boulder County state legislators will talk about their activities, what laws are being made and how upcoming changes could affect you.

Saturday April 4th, 10:30-12:00
BVSD Education Center Board Room
6500 E. Arapahoe, Boulder

Plan to attend, you'll learn a lot in this 1.5 hour event!

This is a free, public opportunity to hear from your state legislators and ask questions. Invite a friend for coffee and then bring them to the meeting, or to go out to lunch afterwards.

Volunteers Needed:

If you can help that morning with the easy task of being an usher, timekeeper, or questions reviewer, please contact:

Laura Coates
303-565-4939

blbjakcoates@yahoo.com

Laura will answer any questions you may have about helping out with this event.

See you there!

President's Ponderings ...

Snow, snow, snow, so what a glorious spring we'll have!

Unlike some who rest in winter, we are preparing for spring, and in League terms that means some great events and ***volunteer opportunities***:

- Educational Meetings on Campaign Finance Reform (March 9-11)
- Consensus Meetings on U.S. Constitutional Amendments (April 13-15)
- Meet Your Legislators (April 4th) ***volunteer opportunity***
- Annual Meeting (May 2nd)
- Hosting the State Convention here in Boulder (May 16-17) ***volunteer opportunity***
- Strategic planning activities

Volunteer: Help your League out by signing up to do some simple one-time tasks while you hear from your state legislators in April and other great speakers at State Convention in May!

If you have questions about volunteering and aren't sure where to start, you can always send an email via our website or to me and we'll make sure it gets to the right person. We look forward to hearing from you!

~ Ceal

Did you miss or want to revisit the material presented at the TABOR forums?

The slides from the two TABOR presentations held in February are now available for download on our website lwvbc.org under Public Event:

[THE COLORADO CONUNDRUM](#), presentation by economist Chris Stiffler of the Colorado Fiscal Institute

[THE TABOR CASE](#) (Kerr v. Hickenlooper), by David Skaggs of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP.

Boulder County Voter
10 Issues per Year
League of Women Voters of Boulder County
P.O. Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308
www.lwvbc.org

President: Ceal Ruffing
president@lwcbc.org
Membership: Liz Black
membership@lwvbc.org
Editor: Eileen Koch
editor@lwvbc.org

Calendar

MARCH

9-11 Unit Meetings
25 Board Meeting/*Voter* Deadline

APRIL

4 Meet Your Legislators
13-15 Unit Meetings
22 Board meeting/*Voter* Deadline

Money in American Elections

The Campaign Finance Reform Committee has prepared a slide (or power point) presentation on Money in American Elections. We will be making presentations at the upcoming March unit meetings and will take the slide show to as many other groups as possible. We are looking for volunteers to help present this information to the community.

We believe that our government is not working for most people because a small number (less than ½ of 1%) are controlling many elections with vast amounts of money. Power is in the hands of a few and our democracy is in danger. We believe that if the majority of people in our country are informed, democracy can be saved.

However, the mainstream media is not informing people. LWV, with its local leagues spread around the country, has the ability to contribute to informing people. Our presentation is a tool for doing this. Very recently the presentation was given to the Estes Park League. It was very well received with the members very engaged and interested.

Our committee is currently making appointments for giving the presentation, beginning in April. We are holding a meeting for any member willing to be a part of this effort on April 7 at the George Reynolds Library at 6:00pm. We will answer questions and demonstrate the use of LWVBC's new projector. We hope to see you there.

Shirley Jin

All Hands on Deck

Last month we alerted you that the Boulder County League will host the state League convention May 16 and 17 at the Millennium Harvest House Hotel. The committee (Mary Anna Dunn, Prue Larson, Lois Linsky, Shirley Jin, Ceal Ruffing, and Louisa Young, chair) has worked tirelessly for several months already, and now we need to involve the rest of the membership. It will require the active participation of everyone, and there is something every member can do.

Please set aside that weekend to help us make this a great, memorable convention, either as a delegate or a volunteer. Even if you are a delegate, there are tasks you can perform to help with the effort.

Members of the committee will attend Unit meetings in March, and you can volunteer for the various jobs. If you don't attend Units, you can respond by emailing Louisa Young (Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU) or calling her (303-444-6428).

Thanks to all who have already volunteered. Now we look forward to hearing from YOU!

~Louisa Young

Units in the News

The topic of the March Units will be campaign Finance Reform. This team has worked diligently to offer an in depth presentation, that you can't afford to miss.

The Wednesday noon unit will have a new location AND a new time for the March and April units. This unit meeting will now be held at the main Boulder Public Library, in the Arapahoe conference room, instead of at the Meadows Library. In addition, the new time will be 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (instead of noon-1:30).

These changes are on the LWVBC website. I recommend that all members make these updates to the unit meeting information on the inside cover of your Membership Handbook, where you can find info about all of the other units as well.

If you have any questions about the schedule/location, please contact Peggy Leech.

Peggy Leech, Unit Coordinator
pegleech@aol.com

Spring Bulb Sale Coming Soon

Watch for our bulb sale coming up again this spring!! We'll have information and forms at the April units. Last year we made nearly \$200 to support our activities--this year we hope to at least double it. For additional information contact Lois Linsky at 303-499-2689.



Strategic Planning

Our work continues! LWVBC Board members have assessed responses to the Board survey and the Member survey (over a third of our members responded...thank you!), and we completed a full day retreat guided by our Strategic Planning consultant.

During our retreat, discussion was geared toward identifying a primary goal. Past successes, existing strengths and weaknesses pointed out in our recent internal surveys, and LWV's given mission were all part of identifying the primary goal to *Increase engagement and participation in LWVBC's activities and mission.*

Then we asked: how do we measure success for our primary goal? How do we accomplish that goal?

Progress indicators, which we will continue to refine, include annual figures such as event attendance, number of outreach efforts to partner or potential partner organizations, number of projects completed, and number of requests for speakers on various issues.

We determined that accomplishing our primary goal requires four focus areas:

- Members
- Supporters (engaging potential members interested in a particular issue)
- Partners (establishing & expanding relationships with other community organizations)
- The broader community

We are considering more emphasis on community educational meetings, teamwork, membership alternatives, administrative structural changes, and how we affect public perception of League. We are embarking on a formal Environmental Scan with emphasis on three community sectors: potential partners, youth, and our Latino population. As we organize these efforts, we will be asking for participation from LWVBC leaders in various capacities.

We are working hard for our organization and looking forward to continuing the strategic planning process through July, as well as benefiting from some great results!

~ Ceal Ruffing

New Education Website

Attention Education Inquisitives: Are you interested in learning about school issues around the country? Visit the National League's new blog on education blog-lwveducation.com. You will find informative data, studies, and perspectives. You may send stories of events in our state. You may use the information you find to advocate for League positions and be a more informed Leaguer. You can subscribe to the blog to receive notices of new posts.

WE ASKED & YOU DELIVERED!

Member Survey Summary

Thank you to every member who responded to the survey, which was a first step in our League's Strategic Planning process. 35% of members responded on line or by mail. That is a significant response rate and reflects the interest taken in this endeavor. Please note the summary information below.

59 respondents. 63% have been members of this League for over 10 years and 20% for under 5 years.

Greatest strengths:

- number of meetings
- productivity of committees
- opportunity to socialize

What members enjoy most about LWVBC activities

1. Learning about issues, gaining new knowledge
 2. Belonging and involvement—interacting with like-minded people working on important issues
 3. Lively, thoughtful discussion about issues and ideas
 4. That the people and the work are intelligent, thoughtful, nonbiased, professional
- Greatest need for improvement:**
- measurement of program impact
 - impact in the community
 - member participation

One thing that would make LWV activities better

1. Greater and more diverse participation, energy, action, impact, sharing of responsibilities
2. Some changes to meeting times, locations, refreshments
3. Nothing can be improved or just having more time to participate

Top areas respondents would like to focus on over the next 2 - 3 years

1. Educational Forums on Community Issues
2. Voter Services
3. Advocacy/Taking Action

The part of the community members are most passionate about engaging:

1. Young people
2. Diverse ethnic communities

Most like to see the league accomplish in next 5 years, members are willing to work at achieving

1. Increased Recognition and Broader Influence
2. Increased Membership and Diversity
3. Impact specific issues – immigration, protect voter's rights, climate change, campaign contribution change, Affordable Care Act

Best practices ideas

- Dues structure to support broader membership
- Professional PR
- More partnerships and participation in other community organizations
- Issue teams
- Structure leadership differently

Thanks to Our Member Donors

Many members choose to make financial donations beyond their dues. We thank all our members and especially those who are able to make these additional gifts to our operating budget, to a special project, and to our Education Fund.

General Fund for Operations

Education Fund

Sustaining Members

Maryann Balassa
Diana Barney
Elizabeth Black
Elaine Brenner
Ann Garstang
Marcia Hoffmeister
Mary Leonard
Lois Linsky
Marky Lloyd
Joan McConkey

Operations Support

Gwen Ball
Elizabeth Bramhall
Laura Coates
Ken Davies
Mary Anna & John Dunn
Catherine Felknor
Anne Fischer
Deborah Hayes
Suzanne Helburn
Jeannette Hillery

Internship Project

Maryann Balassa
Elizabeth Black
Elaine Brenner
Jan Buchanan
Laura Coates
Mary Anna & John Dunn
Catherine Felknor
Kay Forsythe
Ellen Gille
Nancy Herzog

Education Projects

Maryann Balassa
Jan Buchanan
Louise & Herb Crede
Anne Fischer
Ann Garstang
Ellen Gille
Ray Lindsey
Anne Norwood
Jeanine Pow
Judith Reid & Richard Collins
Marlys Robertson
Ruth Stemler
Rebekka Struik
Betty Wickstrom
Mary Ann Wilner

Barbara Merrell
Sara Michl
Semay Nelson
Donella Novak
Rionda Osman-Jouchoux
Ceal Ruffing/Robert Wham
Susan & Jim Saunders
Linda Shoemaker
Kelli Soika
Ruth Stemler
Katherine & Mark Young
Anonymous

Frieda & Richard Holley
Robyn Landry
Prue Larson
Peggy Leech
Susan Maxwell
Liz Nick
Anne Norwood
Hedy Page
Marion Read
Judith Reid & Richard Collins
Emily Robbie
Gail Rowe
Beverly & Lee Springer
Rebekka Struik
Jean Walker
Alice Wallace
Lynn Whitman
Mary Ann Wilner

Jeannette Hillery
Frieda & Richard Holley
Cynthia Jessel
Shirley Jin
Prue Larson
Angie Layton

Peggy Leech
Julie Leonard
Lois Linsky
Marky Lloyd
Bruce MacKenzie
Jane Massie
Paula McKey
Sara Michl
Liz Nick
Anne Norwood
Marion Read
Ceal Ruffing & Robert Wham
Susan Saunders
Ruth Stemler
Virginia Stringi
Dorothy Thompson
Debby Vink
Lynne Wegley
Betty Wickstrom
Louisa Young

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
P.O. Box 21274
Boulder CO 80308

To join the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, complete the form below and mail with your check (made payable to LWVBC) to LWVBC, P.O. Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308.

Dues are for one year and include membership in the state (LWVCO) and national Leagues (LWVUS), as well as our local League. Members will receive the *Boulder County Voter* and the *Colorado Voter*. Members may also sign up for various electronic newsletters. Please note that all membership in now managed by local Leagues. Any payment sent to the national League will be gratefully accepted as a gift but will not confer membership.

Because dues do not cover our costs, please consider adding a contribution. Contributions to the LWVBC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions, but a separate check payable to the LWVCO Education Fund is tax-deductible and will be placed in an account for qualifying activities of the local League. For business contributions, contact Louisa Young 303 444 6428 or send an e-mail: louisa.young@colorado.edu

New Member Renewal Today's Date _____

\$55 Single Membership \$82.50 Two members (same address) \$25 Student

(NEW) Sustaining Membership \$120 individual \$200 household

Name (please print) _____

Dues \$_____

Address _____

Contribution \$____

City _____ Zip _____

Total \$_____

Phone (home) _____

E-mail (please print) _____