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Time to Renew !



<http://www.facebook.com/lwvbc.org>



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

President's Letter

'Tis the season for our Voter Service Team! Candidate forums are well underway, ballot issue pamphlets are being prepared, presentations for community meetings on ballot issues are in the works, and the Voter Registration Drives have been successful



in reaching young people in our county, the future of our democracy. Voter Service will be entering all voting information on www.VOTE411.org as our organization continues to join the digital age by utilizing the web. Well done Voter Service Team!

I want to welcome Jessica Yan, University of Colorado Leeds School of Business, as our first intern. We look forward to Jessica learning about the League, and we welcome the opportunity to learn from her on how we can engage young people in LWVBC. We plan for Jessica to be the first of many interns to come. Hope you meet her soon.

How can you better engage in the League? We need more volunteers as we strengthen our organization. Can you help the Voter Service Team? Do you know a public relations professional who might join our Board of Directors? Can you assist with grant writing or a fundraiser? Are you willing to help mentor an intern? Can you help with social media? Do you have experience with data management? I would love to hear from any of you who have these skills or can help us recruit such individuals to join LWVBC and impact our community!

I look forward to seeing you at a Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting on Oct 5, 6, or 7 and at one of the Community Meetings for ballot issues on Oct 20 or 21. Continue to check our website for dates, times, and locations.

Enjoy this beautiful Colorado Fall, and, please, don't forget to renew your membership.

Ruth

Imagine what our
country might look like if
every eligible American was
registered to vote

VOTE411.org
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



Voter Service Kudos

The LWVBC is pleased to acknowledge and thank Jeanine Pow for her terrific work in setting up four Voter Registration Drives which were held on National Voter Registration Day, September 22. The drives were held at Caffe Sole in Boulder and 3 area high schools, Monarch, Fairview and Boulder. Jeanine also has arranged three drives at home football games at Longmont High School.

So far, 50 students have been registered and countless others informed of the ease of registering online or by mail. Volunteers for these VRDs are the tireless members and friends: Pat Ducray, Mickey Greenberg, Deborah Hayes, Peggy Leech, Donella Novak, Rionda Osman, Jeanine Pow, Susan Saunders, Beverly Springer, Ruth Stemler and Jessica Yan.

Strategic Planning Update

Board Members and select Issue Team Leaders have been developing Action Plans deriving from the July Strategic Planning Retreat. These plans will drive the work of the Board to implement various facets of the plan and provide a time line for measuring the progress of the LWVBC as it moves to raise money, add members, streamline governance, take more action in the communities, and become more representative of the County. It's going to be a productive year!

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308
www.lwvbc.org

Membership: 181 as of October 2015

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president@lwvbc.org

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Boulder County Voter
10 issues per year
Editor: Rionda Osman
editor@lwvbc.org

Mark Your Calendars

1 October 2015:

Louisville City Council Candidate Forum

7–8:30 pm in the Louisville City Council Chambers, 749 Main St. To be broadcast on Louisville Channel 8 and repeated thereafter.

8 October 2015:

Lafayette City Council Candidate Forum

7–8:30 pm in the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 1290 S. Public Rd. To be broadcast on Lafayette Channel 8 and repeated thereafter.

10 October 2015:

Boulder City Council Candidate Forum

10:00–11:30 am in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 1777 Broadway. To be broadcast on Boulder Channel 8 and repeated thereafter.

14 October 2015

Fair Wages Breakfast

7:15–8:40 am at the First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine St., Boulder

19, 20, and 21 October 2015

Ballot Issue Presentations

Details will be posted on the LWVBC website (www.lwvbc.org) as they are finalized.

3 November 2015:

GENERAL ELECTION

Last day to Vote is November 3
Voter Service & Polling Centers open by October 26 and remain open through November 3rd, except Sundays. Mail-in ballots will be sent to all registered voters who registered **on** or **before** October 26th.

League Members in Action



Taking Action: Fair Wages Breakfast October 14.

The LWVBC is hosting a breakfast on Wednesday October 14 to inform the public about guaranteeing fair wages to all Boulder municipal employees.

Many seasonal, part-time, and contract workers, paid with city funds, are working at minimum wages without benefits. The LWVBC invites leaders of interfaith and non-profit organizations as well as elected officials and the public to learn the scope of this problem and be prepared to make comments to the Human Relations Commission (HRC) in November and City Council in January.

Julie Van Domelen, Executive Director of EFAA, and Tracey Jones, a member of the Circles Program, will be the main speakers.

The HRC and City Council will make their decisions based on a report conducted by city staff and due to the HRC in November. Please join us to guarantee that Boulder's part-time, seasonal, and contracted workers earn a fair wage with benefits.

WHEN: Breakfast on October 14 from 7:15-8:40 am

WHERE: First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine St., Boulder [SW Corner Broadway and Pine St. Parking is available in the public lot at Spruce and Broadway].

RSVP: spteam@lwvbc.org



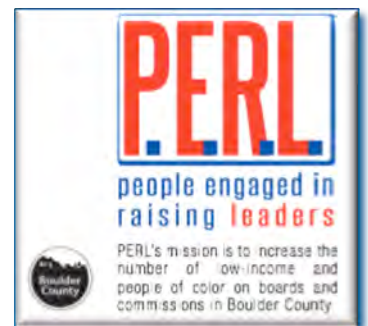
Please Share!

PERL: People Engaged in Raising Leaders

PERL will begin the Fall Session on October 7th at Foothills United Way in Lafayette.

In an effort to increase the number of low-income and/or people of color on Boards and Commissions, Boulder County Community Action Programs has developed People Engaged in Raising Leaders (PERL), a training program educating individuals from Boulder County's diverse communities about the inner-workings of boards and commissions. Participants learn about leadership development, communication styles, budgeting, fundraising and more!

Interested in attending or need more info? Please contact Susana Lopez-Baker at 303-441-3956 or slopez-baker@bouldercounty.org



Our Upcoming Consensus Meetings

Consensus Topic: Behavioral Health

Monday, 5 October 2015

2:30 to 4:00 pm at Frasier Meadows Retirement Community (Sky Lounge 5th Floor) 350 Ponca Place in Boulder

Tuesday, 6 October 2015

10:30 am to 12:00 pm at The Egg & I, 255 Ken Pratt Blvd. in Longmont (arrive at 10 am to order food)

Wednesday, 7 October 2015

11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Arapahoe Room, Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave. in Boulder

Wednesday, 7 October 2015

6:00 to 6:30 pm, Double Happy Restaurant, 740 Main St., Louisville (arrive at 5:30 pm to order food)

Consensus Topic: Amending the Constitution

9,10, 11, and 12 November 2015

Consensus Topic: Money in Politics

18, 19, and 20 January 2015

Consensus Review

The League of Women Voters of the United States has provided this definition of consensus:

It is easier to say what consensus is not, than what it is. Consensus is not a vote; rather, consensus is mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions, created by the study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has or has not been reached on each question. A committee will analyze the consensus responses, look for areas of member understanding and agreement and, using this information, will create a position statement. (see: <http://lwv.org/content/what-consensus>).

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. It is the consensus statement – the statement resulting from the consensus questions – that becomes a position. Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy cannot be taken.

A useful resource is the *Handbook for Successful Consensus Meetings*, available at on the [LWVUS website](#).

Preparing for October Consensus Meetings on Behavioral Health

Reminder: “Behavioral health” is the umbrella term covering both mental illness and addiction (substance use disorder).

B4Stage4 – Mental Health America (a nonprofit) launched this theme to change the way we think about mental health. When dealing with cancer or heart disease, we focus on prevention as well as early treatment. Only with mental illness do we typically end up waiting until a crisis before dealing with it. Why? One reason is the difficulty of recognizing early signs of illness. Many behavioral health issues appear by age 14 and may be viewed as “being a teenager.” Another reason is the difficulty of finding the needed help. Stigma creates a serious barrier as well--reluctance to acknowledge that oneself or a loved one may be suffering from a brain disorder.

What needs to be done? Lots!

- **Education:** We need to educate ourselves and our children about both physical and mental health. How do we build healthy habits and communities? What are signs to watch for that indicate a behavioral health problem? Also, we need to recruit and educate more professionals for all levels and dimensions of behavioral health care. Mental Health Partners, a resource in Boulder, has not been able to hire all the professionals that it needs.
- **Resources:** The Affordable Care Act requires parity—equal access and support—for physical and mental health care, but not all insurance plans are meeting this measure. Also, many communities lack the needed providers and facilities. Statewide, Colorado needs more hospital beds for behavioral health patients.
- **Housing and services:** A safe and stable place to live can be a first step toward healing and re-establishing a productive life. The Housing First movement is showing success but many more residences are needed.
- **Communication:** Mental health matters for everyone. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent suffering by individuals and their families and of course can literally save lives. Awareness and early treatment also save money, particularly because incarceration is so often the destination for individuals with serious behavioral health conditions. We need to be willing to talk about mental health challenges and experiences, and to highlight stories of recovery.
- **Specialty courts,** namely mental health and drug courts, help to rebuild lives rather than detain people in jails. A number exist in Colorado, but not in every county. Success stories from these programs show budget savings as well, from fewer emergency room visits and less incarceration.

This is food for thought. Our plan is also to schedule educational forums during the spring. Meantime, see you in October. Please bring your *Voters* to the meeting.

LWVBC Health Care Team



The LWVBC will hold consensus meetings on October 5, 6 and 7 to discuss the findings of the LWV Colorado's 2015 Behavioral Health Study. Bring this list of consensus questions with you to consensus meetings.

LWVCO Behavioral Health Study 2015 – Consensus Questions

Note: The responses for each question are in this format:

Strongly agree ___ Agree ___ No consensus ___ Disagree ___ Strongly disagree ___

I. Parity and Accessibility

- A. Behavioral health care should be on par and integrated with physical health care.
- B. All people should be able to access affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.

II. Children's Behavioral Health

- A. Colorado should emphasize and make available early and affordable behavioral health diagnosis and treatment for children and youth from early childhood through adolescence.
- B. Colorado should support early and appropriate diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents that is family-focused and community-based.

III. Case Management

- A. People with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless, must have access to safe and stable housing.
- B. Colorado should have effective re-entry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.
- C. Colorado should have problem-solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system.

IV Education

- A. Health education - from early childhood throughout life - should integrate all aspects of social, emotional, and physical health and wellness.
- B. Every effort should be made to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF BOULDER COUNTY

MEMBER RENEWAL FORM 2015-2016

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do.

Why renew? The League's voice is stronger with more members. Member financial support enables the League to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. Only members can participate in discussions leading to League positions on issues such as amending the federal constitution, money in politics and behavioral health. The League is well known for its voter guides and candidate forums and trusted for promoting civil discourse on public policy matters and encouraging citizen participation in government. In the League one can express ideas, learn and practice new skills, make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships.

Make checks payable to LWVBC and send to **Frieda Holley, 830 Columbia Pl, Boulder, CO 80303-3210**. Fill out the form below and include with your payment.

I am paying \$60 for an individual membership

We are paying \$90 for a household membership (two at same address)

I am paying \$120 for an individual sustaining membership (greater financial support for the League)

We are paying \$200 for a household sustaining membership (greater financial support for the League from a household)

I am a life member (50 yrs. or more) owing no dues but donating _____

I am paying \$30 as I am in a household with a life member

Payment of _____ is enclosed. Bill the rest in three monthly installments

I paid ahead or joined quite recently. Tell me if balance is owed for 2015-16

Check for _____ is included as a tax-deductible gift (Separate check to LWVCO Ed Fund)

Please print name(s): _____

Please **provide birth year(s)** for use only as a metric on age diversity of members: _____

Do not publish _____ with my entry in the member directory

Circle items not to be sent to my email address: action alerts *Voter* newsletters

Do not publicly acknowledge my gift

I want the print version of the newsletter

Note my changed contact info, shown here:

Tell me how to apply for dues reduction



LWVBC Fall Calendar

- 1 October: Louisville City Council Candidate Forum
- 2 October: Voter Registration Drive: Longmont
- 5 October: Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Frasier Meadows
- 6 October: Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Longmont
- 7 October: Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Boulder Library
Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Louisville
- 8 October: Lafayette City Council Candidate Forum
Voter Registration Drive: Longmont
- 10 October: Boulder City Council Candidate Forum
- 14 October: Fair Wages Breakfast
- 19, 20, 21 October: Ballot Issue Presentations
- 3 November: GENERAL ELECTION
- 9 – 12 November: Constitutional Amendment Consensus Meetings

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