

## In this issue:

**President's Letter**

**Welcome Giorgio**

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Membership Categories Report**

**By the Numbers: Voting Methods**

**MIP Consensus Results**

**League Members in Action**

Leaders Make A Strong Organization

LWVBC Joins Self-Sufficiency 2016  
Coalition

CFR Team Goes to School

Common Core Standards Community  
Conversation

**Community Conversation on  
Behavioral Health in March 2016**

**Holiday Luncheon Snapshots**



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



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

## Good news!

The Community Foundation of Boulder County awarded LWVBC \$1,250 from the Community Trust fund for our Youth Engagement Program (internship). In granting this money to LWVBC they urged us to reach out to more



diverse communities. If you know a Trustee or staff member of the Foundation please contact them and thank them for this grant to accomplish our mission. And feel free to volunteer to work with us to engage young people, culturally and ethnically diverse communities, and partner organizations in Boulder County! Welcome Giorgio Ausenda, CU Journalism graduate student, as our Spring 2016 intern!

Please check out our website to learn more about what our Campaign Finance Reform Team is doing to engage our community. On January 29th, they were at Niwot High School speaking to social studies students. Kudos to them!

With all those interesting Consensus Meetings behind us, it's time to further develop our strategy to reach into the community. Thank you to Peggy Leech, Meetings Director, for her leadership in this time of change. For the second half of our program year we are focused on meetings to make community impact and to accomplish our mission of "informed and active participation in government." I invite you to form a car pool and attend meetings we have scheduled throughout the county. And bring a fellow Leaguer, neighbor, friend, relative or colleague as we engage our community. Hope you attended the Louisville meeting on Common Core! Up next is Public Transit (Longmont), Living Wage (Boulder), and Behavioral Health (Longmont). And we will be having a Fundraiser on April 6<sup>th</sup> in east Boulder on Immigration. Our speaker will be Mary Wilson, former LWVUS president. So mark your calendars and come along for education, networking and refreshments! Thank you to our members for continuing to support the important work of LWVBC.

Ruth

## Welcome Our New Intern !



Giorgio Ausenda is our new public policy intern, bringing his expertise on media and video production to the LWVBC.

Giorgio is a journalism master's student at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He was raised in

Milan, Italy, and earned a bachelor's degree at the Università degli Studi di Milano in 2012, majoring in history.

After seven months of traveling across South America, Giorgio moved to New York City in 2013, where he wrote as a correspondent for an Italian newspaper.

He was recently nominated for the Hearst Journalism Award for a story on the Gold King Mine spill and the effects on the Animas River in Durango, Colorado.

His interests range from international politics to world affairs.

League of Women Voters of Boulder County  
Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308  
[www.lwvbc.org](http://www.lwvbc.org)

Membership: 187 as of January 2016

President: Ruth J. Stemler

[president@lwvbc.org](mailto:president@lwvbc.org)

Membership: Liz Black

[membership@lwvbc.org](mailto:membership@lwvbc.org)

Boulder County Voter

10 issues per year

Editor: Rionda Osman

[editor@lwvbc.org](mailto:editor@lwvbc.org)

## Mark Your Calendars

*Tuesday, 9 February 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm:*

### **Community Conversation**

#### **What Is the Future of Public Transit in Longmont?**

Speakers: Will Toor (Southwest Energy Efficiency Project), Judy Lubow (RTD Board of Directors), and Phil Greenwald (City of Longmont Transportation Department)  
Networking, light refreshments, Q&A session

*Longmont Chamber of Commerce  
528 Main St., Longmont*

*Wednesday, 10 February 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm:*

### **Community Conversation**

#### **What Is Going On with "Living Wage" in Boulder?**

Speakers: various panelists, TBD  
Networking, light refreshments, Q&A session

*Boulder Chamber of Commerce  
2440 Pearl St, Boulder*

*Tuesday, 8 March 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm*

### **Community Conversation**

#### **How Can We Help with Behavioral/ Mental Health Care in Boulder County and Colorado?**

Speaker: Andrew Romanoff (CEO, Mental Health America of Colorado - MHAC)  
Networking, light refreshments, Q&A session

*Firehouse Art Center, 6774<sup>th</sup> Ave., Longmont*

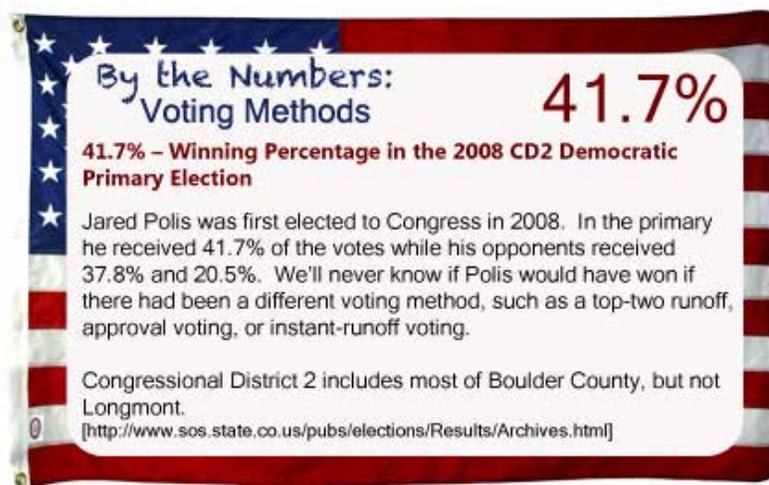
## Membership Categories

### From Liz Black

I was recently approached by a 16 yr-old interested in politics asking if, at her age, she could join our league. I've also heard that some Hispanics reject the idea of joining LWV because our organization does not welcome undocumented individuals regardless of how strong their ties to our communities are. I did research to answer these questions and I want to share what I've learned with readers.

Bylaws govern League practice. Our local LWVBC bylaws use some of the same wording as the national level of the League, that is, anyone "who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership." Despite this inviting tone, reading on, we find that becoming a voting member of the League of Women Voters is restricted to "citizens at least 18 years of age." All others are associate members and they may not serve on the national league's board or go as a delegate to a national convention. The sample bylaws for local leagues provided by the national league make clear that associate members may not serve on local boards. The LWVBC bylaws are in conflict with the national league's recommended practices, as we do not restrict associate members from serving on the board and we even have what might be considered a loophole by which the board may, under special circumstances, award scholarships and honorary memberships and the awardees shall be voting members.

Leaguers around the country are questioning the wisdom of the associate member category. Why not let youth gain experience voting, as League members, before they are eligible to vote in general elections or party caucuses? The immigration position adopted by our organization at the national level states, in part, "In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria." As long as federal policy does not yet provide the path to legal status for unauthorized immigrants which League program calls for, why do we base eligibility for full voting membership on attainment of US citizenship? At the biennial convention, held in DC this summer, the MN and CA state leagues will co-host discussion around three bylaws change proposals. First, removing the age criteria for voting membership, second, eliminating the requirement for citizenship, and, third, getting rid of the associate membership category altogether. If you agree that such changes have merit, talk up the idea to others so we become an organization which truly welcomes everyone to fully take part in our activities.



---

## Consensus Results: Money in Politics

Our January consensus units were on Money in Politics, a LWVUS study. The LWVUS team called for consensus to determine how to revise our current position on campaign finance. The 48 participating members engaged in spirited discussion of the questions designed to outline the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation, to determine the extent to which First Amendment protections should apply in the campaign finance context, and to indicate support for methods of campaign finance regulation.

On the questions regarding the purposes of campaign finance regulation, our groups reached consensus on most of the questions, and on those questions on which they could not, many of the discussions hinged on definitions of particular words in the context (“sufficient”, “equitably”, “enable”, “ensure”).

The second group of questions addressed banning or limiting spending. Our groups were often split between banning spending and allowing some spending by various entities. In the questions covering activities by the press, our groups did not reach consensus, but they agreed that freedom of the press is the overarching issue.

On the questions of how to regulate campaign finance, our groups agreed that spending coordinated with Super PACs and candidates should be banned and that spending by lobbyists can be restricted. They also agreed that the FEC should be reformed.

Thanks to all who participated. The local consensus results have been approved by the Board and forwarded to LWVUS. We await national League’s report on the results of this nationwide consensus study.



## Taking Action: Leaders Make A Strong Organization From Prue Larson

Now is the time to think about your commitment to League in the coming year. Are you ready to step up to a leadership role? Are you interested in continuing a leadership role that you are already filling?

The Nominating Committee is at work, and we will be reviewing openings on the Board as well as hoping to engage members in some off-board responsibilities. You will never be alone with your tasks, because much of our work is done in teams and mentoring is offered to new leaders. Come grow with League!

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in May when the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for approval by the members. The members will be notified of the committee’s proposed slate a month in advance of the Annual Meeting.

If you haven’t yet received a call from the Nominating Committee, please feel free to call us! We’ll be happy to describe to you the leadership opportunities available.

LWVBC Nominating Committee: Prue Larson, Chair; Celeste Landry; Louisa Matthias; Rionda Osman; Yasi Taylor; Liz Black

1 February 2016



## LWVBC Joins Self-Sufficiency 2016 Coalition

From Mary Ann Wilner and Deborah Hayes

As part of its ongoing efforts to raise wages for Boulder city workers who are part-time, temporary or seasonal and those who work for companies with city contracts, the LWVBC has become a founding supporter of Self-Sufficiency 2016, a coalition of individuals and organizations who support wage gains for these city employees.

Based on our Minimum/Living Wages position, the LWVBC Board in January 2016 approved the LWVBC's signing on as a supporter of the larger coalition. Although our position does not specify a recommended hourly wage for Boulder workers, it does describe the types of expenses that individuals and families commonly incur on a monthly basis. These match the expenses listed in the Self-Sufficiency Standard, (from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, 2015) which calculates by county those monthly expenses for individuals and single and two - parent families with different numbers and ages of children.

The coalition proposes an update to Boulder Resolution 926 that will make the following changes in city payment policies:

- Assure that all city workers who are part-time, seasonal or employees of city contractors are paid a living wage and provided core benefits.
- Establish the living wage at \$15.67 per hour, based on the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Boulder County.
- The city shall work to overturn the state-wide ban on local minimum wages.

Ruth Stemler, LWVBC President, and many Social Policy Team members have been meeting with City Council members to educate them on the significance of legislating these changes to the outdated Resolution 926.

Erica Meltzer of the Daily Camera interviewed Ruth Stemler and other Social Policy Team members on January 29.

Mary Ann Wilner and Don Grant, Chair of CU's Sociology Department, were hosted by Erika Stutzman on KGNU's show A Public Affair on January 25 ( <http://www.kgnu.org/apublicaffair/1/25/2016> ).

Boulder City Council will discuss and hold a public hearing on the 2016 revisions to Resolution 926 at its February 16th meeting. It is the second item on the meeting agenda. We encourage as many LWVBC members as possible to attend the meeting in support of our proposal.

Please contact Mary Ann Wilner [ [SPteam@lwvbc.org](mailto:SPteam@lwvbc.org) ] if you have questions or want to be listed as an individual supporter of the coalition.

To read more, please see our [web page](#) and [Boulder's 2016 Self-Sufficiency Coalition](#)



## Taking Action: CFR Team Goes to School

From Deborah Smith

The CFR Team made a presentation on “Money in American Elections” to three American Government classes at Niwot High School on 29 January 2016. These presentations were initiated because a NHS student contacted the CFR Team via our LWVBC website. This student was familiar with LWV because her grandmother is an active member in Florida.



Above: Shirley Jin, Deborah Smith, Gracie Leslie, and Clark Burton at Niwot High School.



## Taking Action: Core Standards Community Conversation

From Linda Hultman

The first in our new series of Community Conversations discussed Common Core Standards at the Louisville Public Library on Thursday, 28 January 2016. Evie Hudak from the Colorado PTA, talked about “What Do We Know About Common Core State Standards in Education?”.

The Common Core Curriculum presentation by Evie Hudak was a great success! Not only did we all learn a lot, we gained two new members for the League. I’m glad we opened this meeting to the public instead of just having it as a Schools Team event.

## Coming in March 2016:

### Community Conversation on Behavioral Health

All are invited to this presentation and discussion. Following our Boulder County consensus meetings on behavioral health last fall, our Health Care Team has invited Andrew Romanoff, President and CEO of [Mental Health America of Colorado](#), to speak on Tuesday, March 8, 5:30-7:30pm at the [Firehouse Art Center](#), 667 4th Avenue in Longmont.



Every year, more than a million Coloradans experience a mental health or substance abuse disorder. Mr. Romanoff will talk about how we can make our state a leader in treating and preventing these illnesses, including discussion on the benefits of early intervention. Time for Q&A will allow you to ask your questions on this topic that affects so many of our families.

Mr. Romanoff served in the Colorado House of Representatives 2001-2009, as Speaker 2005-2009. He has been recognized by more than 50 state and national organizations for his outstanding leadership. He has degrees from Yale, Harvard and University of Denver.

The evening will begin with networking and light refreshments. Come and discover this interesting venue as well. The Firehouse is in downtown Longmont at Coffman and Fourth, one block from Main Street. Free parking is available nearby. Carpooling is recommended.

## Holiday Luncheon Snapshots

### Photos from Jessica Yan



Jessica Yan, our Fall semester intern, poses by the local league banner. At the holiday luncheon she gave members a report on her activities as intern with the LWVBC. She also shared her thoughts on engagement with younger people.



Ruth Stemler, president of the LWV of Boulder County, prepares to hand Jessica Yan a certificate recognizing her achievements as intern during the second half of 2015. The LWVBC will continue inviting students to apply as interns each semester to achieve a strategic goal to make the League better known among young people in the community. The internship program is supported in part by a project grant from the Fikova Fund of the LWV of Colorado.



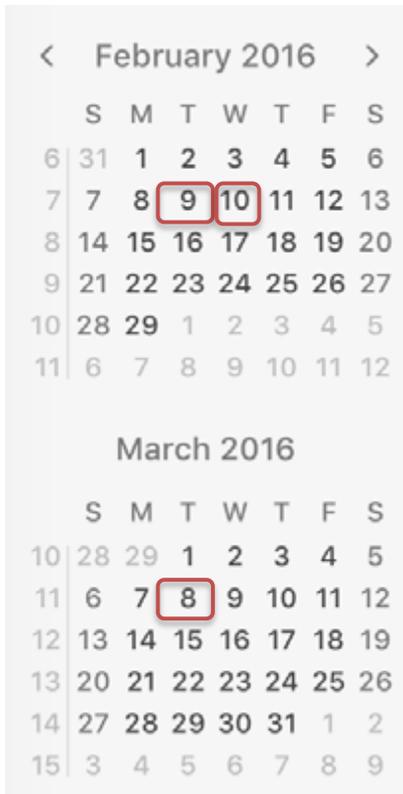
Yasi Taylor, panelist, explains how she puts out the word on League events using SpinGo.



Laura Coates and Deborah Hayes, two of the panelists, spoke on different aspects of Communications and Technology for the 21st Century League.



Panelist Susan Saunders, Voter Service Team Leader, chats with James Danahey, member of BridgeCU, a student organization which partnered with the LWVBC to attract students of all political persuasions to attend a ballot issues presentation given on campus by LWVBC intern Jessica Yan prior to the November general election.



## LWVBC Calendar

*9 February 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm:*

### **Community Conversation**

#### ***What Is the Future of Public Transit in Longmont?***

Longmont Chamber of Commerce, 528 Main St., Longmont

*10 February 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm:*

### **Community Conversation**

#### **What Is Going On with "Living Wage" in Boulder?**

Boulder Chamber of Commerce, 2440 Pearl St, Boulder

*8 March 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm:*

### **Community Conversation**

#### **How Can We Help with Behavioral/ Mental Health Care in Boulder County and Colorado?**

Firehouse Art Center, 6774th Ave., Longmont

*League of Women Voters of Boulder County  
P.O. Box 21275  
Boulder CO 80308*