

## HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY

The League of Women Voters of Boulder County was formed in **2007** by the merger of the LWV of **Longmont**, founded in **1965**, and the LWV of Boulder Valley (LWVBV). The LWV of (the city of) **Boulder** (LWVB), founded in **1931**, was the first local League in Colorado. It became the LWV of Boulder Valley in **1984** by expanding to cover the same area as the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD), including Louisville and Lafayette.

Since the formation of the LWV of Boulder County in 2007, members have studied and taken action on issues in **Boulder County and its municipalities** and in both school districts, **BVSD and St. Vrain Valley School District**.

The following sections present our League's history by decade.<sup>1</sup>  
Archival photos will be made available online shortly.

### THE 1930s

#### Women Citizens League of Boulder, 1931 First Local Chapter in Colorado

In the fall of 1930, Mabel Costigan, the Colorado State President, and one of the founders of the National LWV, asked Helen Fischer to organize a Boulder branch of the League of Women Voters. Helen declined, as she had just been elected President of the Colorado Federation of Women's clubs. However, she worked with other women to form a local League in the city of Boulder.

- Mrs. Colin Goodykoontz, President
- Mrs. Arthur Cross, First Vice President
- Miss Antoinette Bigelow, Second Vice President
- Mrs. Mack Clafin, Secretary
- Mrs. Melvin Goss, Treasurer

The Boulder League became the first local chapter of the League of Women Voters to organize in the State of Colorado. Two of the officers, Mrs. Goodykoontz and Miss Bigelow, were members of the Colorado State League Board. These two women, along with other women, were in the original group of women from Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Denver, to organize the first State League of Colorado.

When the State Board signed incorporation papers on May 4, 1929, it had to use the name of Women Citizens League of Colorado, as another suffrage group in Colorado had the name of Colorado League of Women Voters. The group was not affiliated with the National League of Women Voters but was unwilling to give up its name. Eleven years later, in 1940, the group released its right to the name. The Women Citizens League of Colorado, Inc. changed its name to Colorado State League of Women Voters. That same year, the Boulder Women Citizens League also changed its name to the Boulder League of Women Voters.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: (1) *History of the League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley 1931-2006*. Written by Elizabeth Nick. Researched by Ingrid Becher, Joan McConkey, Elizabeth Nick, Anne Norwood, Sandy Straus. Edited by Deborah Hayes, RoseMary Highman, Anne Norwood, Janet Roberts, Sandy Straus. Copyright © 2006 League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley, Boulder, Colorado. (2) League of Women Voters of Longmont archives in the [Longmont Museum](#). Information on this page about the LWVL, founded in 1965, begins in the 1960s section. The archives of the LWV of Boulder Valley 1931-1991 are held in [Norlin Library at the University of Colorado at Boulder](#).

### Study and Action in the 1930s

Many of the members of the Boulder League were wives of professors at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Many had young children, and according to oral history, their husbands sometimes attended the meetings.

The Boulder members met at least once a month during 1931-32. Topics of study included the Lame Duck Amendment, World Court, taxation, rural schools, disarmament, child welfare, unemployment, maternity and infants' legislation, and the YWCA work in China.

On March 16, 1932, thirty-two members attended the first annual meeting at a Lutheran Church in Boulder. Appointed to administrative positions and as study committee chairmen for the following year were

- Mrs. W. E. Henderson, Membership
- Miss E. M. Tracy, Finance
- Mrs. U. G. Kerr, Librarian
- Miss Hazel Nutting and Miss Mary Gamble, Publicity.
- Mrs. Emma B. Shallenberger, Efficiency in Government
- Miss Antoinette Bigelow, International Cooperation to Prevent War
- Mrs. George B. Williston, Education
- Mrs. Wm. R. Arthur, Legal Status of Women

The last paragraph in the minutes reads as follows.

Our President has presided at all meetings of the Board, and all of the open meetings except one, at which time Mrs. Cross occupied the chair. Mrs. Goodykoontz has worked untiringly this year and has made a very successful start to the future Women Citizens League of Boulder Colorado.<sup>2</sup>

In the next few years, members studied welfare legislation, municipal power problems, the local juvenile court, traffic problems, child delinquency, and public health in Boulder County. The issues in the late 1930s and early 1940s were the lack of a **county health department**, the city's **garbage and trash** collection, and the **pasteurization of milk**.

### Pasteurization of Milk

One of the major accomplishments of the Boulder LWV was the adoption of an ordinance requiring the pasteurization of milk in the city of Boulder. According to Colleen K. Garnsey, the League researched and pushed for a local ordinance to ensure pasteurization of milk and the proper handling of raw milk from the cow to the bottle. Janet Roberts, president of the League, in a letter to Bert Johnson, city manager of Boulder, dated October 12, 1950, recalled that, following the milk sanitation in 1936, the League of Women Voters did much pioneer work for a **Standard Milk Ordinance** for Boulder. In 1969, League member Colleen K. Garnsey, remembered details:

This meant that milk had to be conveyed to the dairy in a sanitary way which eliminated its transportation in family cars, manure spreaders, and other farm conveyances. We were attacked as enemies of the free enterprise system and our president, Mrs. Teresa Murphy (president in 1940), received numerous anonymous phone calls and letters attacking her personal conduct. Mrs. Murphy was pregnant at the time, an occupational hazard of League presidents in those days, but managed to keep her cool and persevere until the ordinance was passed.

### Presidents

- 1931-33 Mrs. Colin Goodykoontz (Susan)
- 1933-34 Mrs. Arthur Cross (Gertrude)

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<sup>2</sup> Grace D. Clafin, secretary, in the Annual Report, approved March 16, 1932.

- 1934-35 Miss Emma Tracy
- 1935-36 Mrs. Wm. Arthur (Winifred)
- 1936-37 Mrs. Don Sowers (Helen)
- 1937-39 Mrs. Wm. Arthur (Winifred)
- 1939-40 Georgia Benjamin

## THE 1940S

### The War Years

During World War II, members became concerned with national as well as local issues. Membership declined as members followed their husbands and moved away from Boulder.

The War, which took many away from Boulder, and pre-, during-, and post-War babies, challenged continuity of leadership. As I recall, one War year the Boulder League was saved by two members, Dorothy Thompson and Theresa Murphy, even though a baby was expected in each family. Statistics will show that expectancy came almost to be a concomitant of the presidency! The record was set when Edna Starkey brought forth twins. Other notable early League productions included the famous Milk Ordinance and the all-out campaign to establish a City-County Health Department. In the War years, we carried out a truth-in-labeling consumer study, with visual canned goods displayed in downtown stores." (--Dorothy D. Lewis, 1969)

After 1945, League membership increased. Members began to meet in neighborhood discussion groups. This was the beginning of the small study groups, later called "Units." In 1946, the League began an **observer program** to observe city council and school board meetings.

### Public Health

In 1941, the League asked the city council candidates to express their stand on the "improvement of sanitary conditions, such as rat and mosquito control, improved methods of garbage and rubbish disposal, and rigorous control of conditions under which food is handled." <sup>3</sup>

In the late 1940s, League members were among the Colorado women enlisted by Florence R. Sabin, M.D., formerly at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City, to pressure the legislature to reform the state's corrupt public health system and enact needed public health laws. In 1947 the Colorado Legislature passed seven [Sabin Health Laws](#), five of them establishing and funding health services, including new county health departments, and two for the control of specific diseases such as dipHtheria and smallpox. In 1949, additional Sabin laws applied to fresh meat, flour, and fluid milk; pasteurization became mandatory. New plumbing codes ensured safe drinking water; restaurants were inspected; and the state established a health clinic at the Fort Lupton migrant labor camp.

Boulder County, however, was not among the counties granted health department services under the Sabin Laws, in spite of the Boulder League's efforts from 1947 to 1949.<sup>4</sup> Each city in the county had its own health department; Boulder's health officer was a veterinarian. In the spring of 1949, the League published a flyer to educate the public on the importance establishing a county health department, as distinguished from the city department.

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<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Walter Orr (Janet) Roberts, President, and Mrs. Wayne S. Beattie, Chairman, Local Project, LWV of Boulder, letter dated October 12, 1950, to Bert Johnson, City Manager.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

### Subpoena Served

In 1948, League member Dorothy Thompson represented the LWV on a five-member statewide Children's Code Commission. Appointed to the commission by Governor Knous, the members were to consider the revision of Colorado laws affecting children. The Commission was sued and members were subpoenaed. The day Dorothy received her subpoena, she threw her back out while cleaning house, and collapsed on the bed upstairs. When she heard someone calling from the front door, she told the person to come upstairs as she could not move. She was served the subpoena in bed.

### Publications

The League's 1943 Report on Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency in Boulder County included statistics and discussed public health and recreation facilities.

### Program and Study

- 1941: Researched and worked for a local ordinance on milk pasteurization
- 1941-42: Promoted city improvement in sanitary conditions, garbage disposal, and food handling
- 1942-43: Compulsory pasteurization (passed by the city)
- 1944-45: Courts, health and education
- 1947-48: County government study and the city manager form of government study.
- 1945-46: Promoted a recreation department for the city of Boulder with a full-time director
- 1946-47: Began the "observer program" to observe city council and school board meetings in order to learn about the issues.
- 1947 through the early 1950s: Campaigned for a county health department
- 1949: Distributed a flyer regarding the need for a county health department. The message asked individuals to send a resolution to the county commissioners.

### Presidents in the 1940s

- 1940 Theresa Murphy (resigned in September 1940)
- 1940-43 Natalie Davison
- 1943-44 Dorothy Thompson
- 1944-45 Louise Beattie
- 1945-47 Emada Griswold
- 1947-48 Mary Elizabeth O'Rourke
- 1948-50 Mary Jane Surguine

## **THE 1950s**

### Public Health, continued

At the beginning of the 1950s, League members continued in their quest, begun in 1947 (see above), for improved public health standards in the city of Boulder and in Boulder County.

Boulder resident Walter B. Lovelace, in an article titled "Good Health to All from Alumni and University Wives" in the *Colorado Alumnus* for April 1950, described the Sabin Health Bill that would "safeguard the health of our [university] students and townspeople." The LWV, including university wives, he wrote, recommended adoption of the law. He decried the lack of action by the city and county and urged the County Commissioners to pass a resolution. The county commissioners refused.

### Garbage and Trash

League members researched and took action on garbage and trash in the city of Boulder. Members walked the alleys and took photos of "cabbage leaves and grapefruit rinds spilling out of uncovered garbage trucks. Through their persistent efforts, it became a requirement that garbage trucks be covered."<sup>5</sup>

### Precinct Caucuses

As part of their voter service activity, members sponsored a series of four nonpartisan meetings on four successive days regarding the need for the precinct caucus. Titled *Who, What, Where, When, and Why is a Precinct Caucus*, the discussion panels were led by Mrs. L. E. Thompson, the national Democratic committee woman from Colorado, and Mrs. Edward Donnellan, Republican state committeewoman. The purpose of the meetings was to inform attendees [about] the mechanics of party politics and how to "practice the priceless responsibility of Democracy--the right to vote."<sup>6</sup>

To encourage citizens to register and vote, in 1956 the League members distributed 10,000 registration flyers through milk companies and local employers.

### Publications

- 1955: City Government articles written by the League and published by the *Daily Camera* in the fall
- 1954: City Park Lands, Their Acquisition and Operation, including Greenbelts
- 1954: Trash and Your Cash
- 1956: Know Your City (Boulder)

### Program and Study

- 1951-52: Adopted position on Garbage and Trash Standards
- 1951-52: Analyzed Boulder's expansion problems and supported measures contributing to their solutions
- 1952-53: Know your Town survey
- 1953-54 Adopted position for municipally owned Garbage and Trash Collection System
- 1957-58 Advocated adequate planning for physical growth of Boulder with respect to flood plain zoning and development.

### Action (partial list)

- 1950: Letter to Boulder City Council to increase appropriation for the Recreation Association. This action was based on the League's *Juvenile Report*, that a constructive way to prevent juvenile delinquency would be through an adequate recreation program.
- 1950: Endorsed the proposed city-operated refuse collection and disposal system.
- 1950-51: Hearings on the health and recreation budgets.

### Presidents in the 1950s

- 1951-52 Mrs. John W. Evans (Betty)
- 1952-53 Mrs. David Stacey (Joan)
- 1953-54 Mrs. Robert Low (Rosemary "Modie")
- 1954-56 Mrs. E. P. Swerdfeger (Shirley)

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<sup>5</sup> *Boulder Daily Camera*, March 18, 1995: 9A.

<sup>6</sup> Newspaper article, probably *Daily Camera*, May 6, 1950.

- 1956-57 Mrs. D'Arcy McNickle (Roma)
- 1957-58 Mrs. Tician Papachristou (Judy)
- 1958-59 Mrs. D'Arcy McNickle (Roma)
- 1959-61 Mrs. Robert DeKieffer (Melissa)

## THE 1960S

### BOULDER LWV

In the early 1960s, at the local radio station, KBOL, League member Anne Goodnow conducted on-air interviews of League members and individuals of the community, in regards to topics of League interest.

Many LWV members during this decade were young mothers. Problems arose with providing baby-sitting, especially at the Units (small neighborhood meetings). In a 1961 *Daily Camera* article, Mrs. Mancourt [Sybil] Downing, newly elected League president and the mother of four children from ages one through nine, explained that she and her husband, a professor at the university, had moved to Boulder from Park Forest, Illinois. She had joined the League in Park Forest after the birth of her first child when she "felt as if I were in a vacuum with diapers and bottles all around. I heard about the League of Women Voters and felt this was one place I could work and gain knowledge at the same time without sacrificing the family. When we moved to Boulder in 1955, I immediately joined the local league." The newspaper article also reported that Mrs. Downing was being featured in a series called *Profile of an American*, which the U.S. Information Agency sent to newspapers in eighty foreign countries.

In 1965, after the annual meeting in March, League members voted to adopt a new local study of Boulder city-county relationships. They also planned to continue their work for the adoption of the garbage and trash bond issue.

In December of 1965, the League published its *Know Your County* booklet, a much-needed comprehensive survey of all aspects of Boulder County government. The booklet explained how the county government functioned and how an individual might participate effectively.

In 1969, the League's growth in numbers and in influence in the community led members to rent office space at St. John's Episcopal Church, 22212 14th Street. The office remained there until 1973. Membership dues in 1969 were \$8.50.

### Voters Service

During the 1960s, the League held city council candidate forums, conducted voter registration drives, and held information meetings.

### Comprehensive Plan

In September 1969, the first public presentation of the city of Boulder's **Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan** was given for the LWV by Richard Veazey of the City Planning Department and Vincent Porreca of the County Planning Department. League members continued to monitor the city and county comprehensive plans and to give testimony at hearings which occur at the five-year updates.

A paper written between 1967 and 1969 by a League member outlines the role of the League in the city of Boulder. "Since 1952, problems taken for study by Boulder's LWV have included: the redevelopment of downtown Boulder; aesthetic aspects of planning parks and subdivision development regulations, including concepts of open space and greenbelts; annexation; floodplain development and zoning; financing city services and development including the garbage and trash problem; and city-county relationships emphasizing planning."

### Appointments to County Committees<sup>7</sup>

- Kay Dugan was appointed by the County Commission to the Community Action Program
- Hester (Tess) McNulty was appointed to the Boulder City-County Board of Health (she was later elected board chair)
- Elizabeth Hawkins to the County Long Range Planning Commission
- Carolyn Holmberg to the County Budget Advisory Committee

### Presidents in the 1960s (Boulder)

- 1961-63 Sybil Downing
- 1963-64 Margaret Tappan
- 1964-65 Evelyn Lance
- 1965-66 Ruth Correll
- 1966-67 Virginia Braddock
- 1967-69 Joyce Davies
- 1969-71 Zoe Menkick

## LONGMONT

In 1965 the League of Women Voters of Longmont (LWVL) was established with *provisional* status. Leona Stoecker served as president during the crucial first year. By 1966 the Longmont group had completed their "Know Your Local Government" and "Know Your City" studies and other requirements for recognition as a full-fledged local League.

Research has barely begun into the wealth of materials available in the LWVL archives in the Longmont Museum. A cursory investigation reveals an active organization of vital importance to the city of Longmont and Boulder County. Extensive coverage in the *Times-Call* newspaper brought public attention and increased membership.

Longmont, like Boulder, was growing rapidly and League members in Longmont, as in Boulder, recognized the need for comprehensive planning to protect the environment--the natural beauty of Boulder County that brings new residents. League members in Longmont in the 1960s and 1970s undertook extensive study of planning and zoning, traffic circulation, recreation facilities, and parks. They also saw a need for joint city-county voter registration.

### Program and Study (Longmont)

- 1966-67: Local Planning and Zoning with emphasis on study of planing and zoning ordinances in Longmont
- 1967-68: Continue with deeper study of planning and zoning
- 1968-69: Continue planning and zoning study with emphasis on traffic circulation
- 1969-70: Joint city-county voter registration; Recreation and park needs for Greater Longmont

### Presidents in the 1960s (Longmont)

- 1965-1966 Leona Stoecker
- 1966-1968 Lucy Thompson
- 1968-1969 Mrs. Roger Charlton

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<sup>7</sup> Appointments to city and county boards and commissions were announced in the *Boulder Valley Voter*.

## THE 1970s

### BOULDER

The 1970s was a decade of much activity by Boulder League members, who in 1975 numbered 256. Baby-sitting was offered at meetings. At one of the annual Boulder League Days in September, baby-sitting was available, and lunch was \$1.50. Many photographs and articles appeared in the *Daily Camera*, Boulder's main newspaper, often in the "Women's Scene" section by the women's news editor. Coverage of LWV in Boulder and Longmont newspapers continued to be extensive into the 1980s.

**LWVB office** --In 1972-73, the League office was moved from St. John's to the County Health Building at 3450 Broadway. In 1973, office space was found in a building at the foot of the Canyon at 220 Pearl. In 1975, when the office manager was League member Dory Twitchell, the Twitchells provided office space in their home. In the June 1976 Boulder Valley Voter, League president Annette Anderson wrote that the League could not find affordable commercial space for the office. The League files were moved to the basement of the home of member Harriet Newton, and Shirley Wilke became the new office manager. Storing the files continues to be an unwritten part of the president's job description.

**Not for women only** --In 1974, by vote of LWVUS convention delegates, League bylaws were revised to welcome men into the League as full voting members. The first man to join the Boulder Valley League was Boulder Mayor Penfield Tate II.

**Observer Corps** --League members attended--"observed"--meetings of the city council, county commissioners, the school board and other governmental boards, and reported on the proceedings. In April 1971, a newspaper reporter encountered Mary Gelman observing a public meeting of the Boulder County Commissioners and wrote that "the League is the only citizens' group represented at these meetings, and its representatives attend strictly as observers, not participants."<sup>8</sup>

**Madelyn Pettit Scholarship Fund** --The LWVB board instituted the fund at the request of Janet Roberts and Dorothy Thompson as a memorial to their friend Madelyn Pettit, an early and faithful member of the League. "Madelyn had been an officer of the League of Women Voters of Boulder in its earliest years, serving as social welfare chairman in 1941, as secretary in 1943, and returning to the Board as International Affairs chairman in 1953-54."<sup>9</sup> For about twenty years the fund allowed the League to help members who could not otherwise afford dues.

**Tours and education** --To learn about city facilities the League sponsored a tour of the Betasso Water Plant, "How Safe is Boulder Drinking Water?" on October 14, 1975. A month later, the League sponsored a County Comprehensive Plan tour of Boulder County, by bus, with narration by Ed Tepe, county planner. The following spring, on April 17, 1976, at the Boulder Public Library the League held a public meeting on wastewater treatment.<sup>10</sup>

### Study and Action (Boulder)

The League may take action based on local, state, or national positions, which are developed after study, discussion and member consensus. In the League newsletter for November 1976 the list of action taken between March 17 and October 19, almost two pages long, includes letters to the Boulder City Council, Boulder County Long Range Planning Commission, and the County Commissioners. In one letter to city council the LWV expressed its displeasure with the

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<sup>8</sup> *Daily Camera*, April 25, 1971.

<sup>9</sup> Letter by Janet Roberts and Dorothy Thompson, March 22, 1976.

<sup>10</sup> Events were announced in the *Boulder Valley Voter*, the monthly newsletter.



process used in removing the city manager; in another the LWV supported the interim growth policies and urged their incorporation into the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan. Letters to county leaders supported the objectives of the Solid Waste Management Plan, including recycling programs, and urged funding for implementation of the plan.

### Publications

- 1970 (June): *Know Your Schools* - 62 p., chapters titled "History," "Boulder Valley School District No. Re 2J," "Administrative Structure," "The School Program," "School Finance," "Positions on Schools taken by Boulder League of Women Voters," "Suggested Areas for Future Study" booklet includes a map of the original Boulder Valley school districts.
- 1972, 1974: Voters Guide and Political Directory
- 1973 (July): *Land Use in the Boulder Area* - 24 pages, chapters titled "Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan," "City Land Use," "County Land Use," "Environmental Concerns Related to Land Use."
- 1975 (February): *Know Your County*, revision of the 1965 edition
- 1976 (August): *This is Boulder* - revision of 1962 *Know Your City*, information about Boulder government and the services available to residents.
- 1978: Ballot Issues (in October) - 25,000 brochures explaining county issues.

### Program and Study (Boulder)

- Study of the City Charter, emphasis on boards and commissions
- Criminal Justice
- County Home Rule (as in LWVL)
- Alternatives to Incarceration
- *Know Your Schools*, study of alternative methods in education.
- Alternative Transportation (alternatives to the automobile)
- Housing

### Action (partial list)

- Statement on the county's Solid Waste Management Objectives
- Support for interim growth policies and incorporating them into the Comprehensive Plan
- Support of funding for the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan

### Presidents in the 1970s (Boulder)

- 1969-71 Zoe Menkick
- 1971-73 Maggi Markey
- 1973-75 Joan McConkey
- 1975-77 Annette Anderson
- 1977-79 Carolyn Holmberg
- 1979-81 Deborah Hayes

## LONGMONT

In the 1970s, members reached consensus on a number of environmental planning issues and advocated their positions in public statements to city council members and other leaders. League members in Longmont and Boulder alike investigated the ramifications of Boulder County becoming a Home-Rule county (it did not).

Many photographs and articles appeared in the *Times-Call*, Longmont's main newspaper, Coverage continued to be extensive into the 1980s.

In March of 1971, Longmont members invited all interested persons to join a go-see **hike** to the Longmont watershed, with the sewage treatment plant as starting-point. The *Times-Call* provided front-page coverage before and after the event. The announcement in the March 9th edition was illustrated by a photo of the starting point. On March 15th, the paper reported that the hikers found "a mess," and it printed a photo of the LWVL vice president, Mrs. Thomas Wright, with a water sample.<sup>11</sup>

### Program and Study (Longmont)

- 1970-71: Planning and Zoning (cont'd); Joint City-County Voter Registration (Action); Recreation and Park Needs (Action); School Bond Issue
- 1971-72: Planning and Zoning (Action); Recreation and Parks (Action); Joint Registration (Action); County Home Rule (Study)
- 1972-73: Planning and Zoning (Study and action); County Home Rule (Continue study); City Charter Revision (New study)
- 1973-74: Planning, to include parks, transportation, housing, utilities, codes, ordinances and special districts; County Home Rule (as in LWVB); City Charter; Counseling in RE-1J Schools (New study)
- 1974-75: Counseling; City Charter Revision; Planning (again); Current school bond issue
- 1975-76: Planning (with emphasis on priorities for Longmont under the Community Development Act of 1974); Counseling; City Charter (Action); School Bond
- 1976-77: Planning (Action); Counseling (Action); Housing (Expanded study); Water in the St. Vrain Valley (New study)
- 1977-78: Water (Study, readopted); St. Vrain Valley Comprehensive Plan (Study)
- 1978-79: Support for SVVCP; Water
- 1979-80: Focus on Longmont (New study); Planning; Housing; Education

### Presidents in the 1970s (Longmont) (partial list)

- 1969-1971 Vicki McKinney
- 1971-1973 Marjorie Large
- 1973-1974 Frances (Fran) Wright
- 1974-1975 Sharon Cary
- 1977-1978 Lois Kulakowski
- 1978-1980 Dale Bernard

## THE 1980S

### BOULDER / BOULDER VALLEY

On February 21, 1981 members and guests celebrated the **50th Anniversary** of the founding of the League of Women Voters of Boulder. A reception was held at the Koenig Alumni Center on the campus of the University of Colorado. Eighteen members were honored for their twenty-five years of membership, and one member was honored as a fifty-year, Life Member, as recognized by the LWVUS. Speaking were Mayor Ruth Correll (a former LWVB president), and Roger Cracraft, KOA-TV news director, who spoke on the League's role in informing voters.

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<sup>11</sup> "Hike Study of River Planned," March 9, 1971: 1; and "Hikers Find St. Vrain `a Mess'," March 15, 1971: 1.

### Expansion: The LWV of Boulder Valley

In 1984, the LWV of Boulder became the LWV of Boulder Valley, to cover the same geographical area as the Boulder Valley School District, including Louisville, Lafayette, and other cities and towns surrounding Boulder.

### LONGMONT

In early 1980, in observance of the 60th anniversary of the LWV of the United States, the *Times-Call* reviewed LWVL activities and plans for the future: "One of the Longmont LWV's primary goals for 1979-80 is voter education. Members have distributed Colorado Children's Law guides to social and civic groups as well as school administrators, and are giving an energy awareness puppet show at seven local elementary schools. Additionally, the women are providing interested groups with 30 packets about Longmont and future planning for the city, giving fourteen talks entitled 'Focus on Longmont' to various clubs and organizations, and are continuing to observe local government boards and advisory groups."<sup>12</sup>

The reporter also noted the civic engagement of League members. "Past president Leona Stoecker (1965-66) is on the Longmont Water Board and has served on the Boulder County Planning Commission. [Stoecker was later elected mayor and served from 1993 to 2001.] Lucy Thompson (1966-67) is director of the Longmont Housing Authority and has served as a city councilwoman. Vicki McKinney (1969-71) is a city councilwoman and administrative assistant to the Boulder County Commissioners. Marge Large (1971-73) is a member of the Longmont Housing Authority board. Fran Wright (1975-79) has served on the Boulder County Planning Commission. Current president Dale Bernard is a member of the library board and the mayor's ethics committee. Other LWV members serving on boards include Paula Johnston, Lorena Darby and Kay Sandmeier, library board; Jerry Cross, parks and recreation; Diane Steen, chairwoman of Planning and Zoning Commission, and Bob Askey, mayor of Longmont. Former member Charlotte Houston is now Boulder County Clerk."

The report concluded with an invitation from the LWVL president to interested readers to attend one of the League's two unit (small group) meetings. One unit met for two hours on the first and third Wednesday morning in members' homes, and babysitting was provided. The other met for one hour at noon on the first four Tuesdays of the month at Sorrento's Restaurant.

By the mid-1980s, with women taking jobs outside the home, League membership was in decline--in Longmont as elsewhere.<sup>13</sup>

In 1986, the LWVL again received extensive coverage upon its twentieth anniversary. The article was published with a sidebar, "City's chapter has milestone," and a photo of the president, Carolyn Sutherland.<sup>14</sup>

### Presidents in the 1980s (Longmont, partial list)

- 1984-1985 Vicki McKinney
- 1986-1987 Carolyn Sunderland

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<sup>12</sup> "Celebrating 60th anniversary: League of Women Voters active," *Times-Call*, February 13, 1980: 12.

<sup>13</sup> Patrice Wendling, "Declining numbers worry League of Women Voters," *Times-Call*, January 12-13: 3.

<sup>14</sup> Jean Pazour, "League of Women Voters keeps you informed," *Times-Call*, August 27: 7A.

## THE 1990S

### BOULDER VALLEY

#### Publications (Boulder Valley)

- Before each election: *Ballot Issues* (pros and cons)
- Directory of Local Officials
- 1994: *This is Boulder* - update of the 1984 edition, with new chapters on the environment and the relationship between the city and the University of Colorado. (Daily Camera, June 29, 1994)
- 1997: [Did You Know? The Story of Boulder, Colorado: Its Struggles to Reconcile Growth with Environmental Preservation](#), by Janet Roberts, a compilation of her 1997 Daily Camera articles.
- 1999: [Will 'Success' Spoil Boulder County? Growth Management and Regional Planning](#) - from a two-year study of land use, housing, and transportation for which thirty League members interviewed city, town, and county officials. Topics: Brief History of Boulder County, Growth Management, Regional Planning, and Comprehensive Plans Meet Reality: Affordable Housing.
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#### LWV Presidents in the 1990s (Boulder Valley)

- 1989-90 Lynne Wegley & Elizabeth Nick (co-presidents)
- 1990-93 Elizabeth Nick
- 1993-95 Elizabeth Black
- 1995-99 Rose Mary Highman

### LONGMONT

#### LWV Presidents in the 1990s (Longmont) (partial list)

- 1993–1995 Kristine Stahl
- 1996 Mary Sucke
- 1997–1999 Co-presidents Jean Jennings and Roxy Crystal

## THE 21ST CENTURY

### BOULDER VALLEY

At the May 2000 annual meeting, members were honored for their commitment to the League. Two members received the Life Membership award for their fifty years in the League. In April 2001, four members Dorothy Beers, Jean Haywood, Harriet Newton, and Bev Hiza were honored for their forty years of membership.

In March 2001, the League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley celebrated its 70th anniversary. Anne Norwood, president, wrote a "Salute to Women in Elective Office" that was published in the newsletter of the LWV of Colorado, the *Colorado Voter* (p. 7):

The eighteen women who serve in elective office in the Boulder Valley were recognized at a most successful League birthday tea and fund-raiser. LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins and LWVCO President Gerry Cummins joined over sixty members and guests in saluting the work of these women--all made possible by female suffrage.

"Does it matter that there is a League of Women Voters?" was the question posed by President Jefferson-Jenkins in her address. The question was resoundingly answered affirmatively, first by her accounting of League action since the events of Election 2000 ("a gift to the League") and secondly, by the evidence of the positions of the women present.

Elected women in the Boulder Valley include the local District Attorney, a County Commissioner, the County Clerk and the Assessor, a Colorado state senator and a representative, a member of the state Board of Education, school board members, and several city mayors and council members. After eighty-one years of female suffrage and seventy years of League in the Boulder Valley, it does matter that there is a League of Women Voters in the Boulder Valley.

In May 2005, at the annual meeting, another member was awarded Life Membership, recognizing her fifty years as a member of the League. Eleven other members were honored for membership of 30, 35, 40, and 45 years.

In 2006, LWVBV celebrated its 75th anniversary. Membership continued to be around 200 members living mainly in Boulder, Lafayette, and Louisville.

### Voters Service (Boulder Valley)

- Ballot issues pros and cons before each election
- Candidate forums for candidates for county offices, city councils, town boards, and BVSD board
- Forum broadcasts on cable TV, with videos remaining available online
- Public forum in 2001 at the Louisville Recreation Center on the city's proposed **Home-Rule Charter** (it passed)
- In 2000 and 2002, in conjunction with Youth Vote and the University of Colorado Student Union, a candidate forum at the university for Second Congressional District and Board of Regents.

### Publications (Boulder Valley)

- *Ballot Issues* (pros and cons)
- Directory of Elected Officials, 2001-2002
- Open Space Programs in Boulder County, 2003
- "The Status of Affordable Housing in Boulder County: Is the Glass Half Full or Half Empty?" January 2002

### Program and Study (Boulder Valley)

- City Council/City Manager System
- Solid Waste Management
- Voting Procedures in Boulder County
- Schools, County Parks and Open Space Acquisition
- Open Space Lands
- Transportation - FasTracks
- Regional Library Services

### Action (Boulder Valley) (partial list)

- Written correspondence and appearances before the Boulder Planning Board and Boulder City Council, the League supported the changes to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan that increased the availability of affordable housing.
- The League Transportation Committee sent a letter in support of the Locally Preferred Alternative for the US 36 corridor

- 2004: League action on Rocky Flats - Anne Fenerty spoke at a public meeting in Broomfield on April 14.
- 2005: Campaign for Referenda C & D on the state ballot
- 2005 (fall): Letter to Lafayette City Council in support of the affordable housing proposal

#### Presidents (Boulder Valley)

- 1999-2003 Anne Norwood
- 2003-2005 Deborah Hayes
- 2005-2006 Elizabeth Nick

#### LONGMONT

The LWVL in the 21st century found itself declining in activity and members. Only twelve members attended the annual meeting in May 2000. The next year, a motion to join LWVBV was defeated 15-0. Then a motion to suspend the bylaws (the LWVUS recommended this) passed 15-0; Roxy Crystal agreed to serve as coordinator. An alternative was seized upon, namely, merging with the LWVBV to form a county League. The process began, and the LWV of Boulder County was created in 2007.

#### Presidents (Longmont) (partial list)

- • 2000 Roxy Crystal
- • 2003 Christine H. Smith

#### LWV OF BOULDER COUNTY

In the merger agreement the two Leagues agreed that initially the program positions of the new LWV of Boulder County would be those of the LWVBV. During the first year of the LWVBC, members examined the positions in detail.

- In 2008, members approved amending the **Environmental Planning** position to encompass Boulder County.
  - In 2008, they also approved amending the positions on Boulder Valley School District **Schools** to include St. Vrain Valley School District.
  - In 2010, members adopted an updated position on **Housing** that combined both Leagues' longstanding goals.
  - In 2013, LWVBC members adopted a new **Health Care** position.
  - In 2015, LWVBC members adopted a new position on **Minimum/Living Wages**. Members approved dropping the position on the Boulder City Council-Manager System as well as one item from the Boulder County Government Structure position.
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