

**2017 Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**League of Women Voters of Boulder County**  
**May 6th, 2017, Nissi's, Lafayette**

9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast Photo Booth for All Members	
9:30 am	Call to Order	Ruth Stemler, President
9:35 am	Introduction of Speakers Boulder County Latino History Project Justine Vigil-Tapia, Advisory Committee Marjorie K. McIntosh, author, Latinos of Boulder County, CO, Volumes I and II	Ruth Stemler
10:15 am	Community Award(s)	Ruth Stemler
10:25 am	Business Meeting President's Welcome and Report Adoption of Rules of Procedure Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report and Financial Review  Presentation: Proposed 2017–18 Budget Consideration and Questions on Budget Adoption of Budget  Presentation of Proposed Program Adoption of Proposed Program  Report of the Nominating Committee Election of Officers and Directors  By-laws Revision  Member Recognition  Members' Direction to the Board  Announcements: Bulb Sales Grocery Card Sales Duck Race Tickets May 11th, Film / <i>Voted?</i> , Elevations Credit Union, Boulder, Diagonal Hwy	Ruth Stemler Parliamentarian, Liz Nick Lurbin Moore, Treasurer  Peggy Leech, Budget Committee  Jeannette Hillery, Director Legislative and Issue Team Liaison  Frieda Holley, Chair  Susan Saunders, Bylaw Committee  Liz Black, Membership Director
11:30 am	Adjourn	

## **ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

### **President's Report Ruth Stemler**

**This has been another very successful year for the League of Women Voters of Boulder County.** The Officers, Directors and Team Leaders Reports included in your Member Packet are evidence of the commitment our members have made to our Primary Strategic Goal — greater community engagement with LWVBC and greater LWVBC engagement in the community. I hope you enjoy reading about everything the organization has accomplished this year. We should be very proud of our League!

I want to say a special thank you to the **Board Members** who have worked tirelessly all year, devoting many extra hours to ensure our League is finding a path to the future. These board members are change agents, they are early adopters, they are visionary leaders. The board most often finds a way to say "YES" to a project and seldom needs to say "NO." Because of their changes in communications, technology, events, voter service and membership we are a more VIBRANT, VISIBLE AND EFFECTIVE organization.

I also want to thank the **Issue Team Leaders** who have led the way in the community to build greater civic participation in the democratic process and engage communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues. They have worked diligently to further our reputation as a reasoned voice and the place for balanced information!

I want to welcome **New Members. 42 new members have joined us from January 2016 through April 2017. Today our membership is 214 members strong. We have grown by 24%.** More men are joining the League and more individuals from cities and towns outside of Boulder. I believe that our intentional commitment to community outreach has contributed in a significant way to our increase in membership. Thanks to all who worked on this!

And I want to say thank you to you, the **Members**, who served the League in so many ways.

The LWVBC Strategic Plan has helped our organization do a better job, because a plan focuses the energy, resources, and time of everyone in the organization in the same direction. It provides focus and direction to move from **Plan to Action**.

#### **Here are just a few innovations I'd like to highlight:**

- Increased our media presence: Facebook, YouTube, Website and MeetUp
- Increased community outreach for all educational programs and events
- Initiated KGNU radio programs on important issues
- Started Livestreaming on Facebook
- Originated Membership Management Software (first in Colorado and second in the country)
- Initiated Drinks and Dialogue (first in Colorado)
- Held Community Conversations reaching hundreds—our members and the community
- Initiated a Speakers bureau to market the League and to encourage collaboration and membership

- Recruited and worked to bring into equal participation more diverse members/board members who are women of color and Generation Xers
- Obtained our 501 (c) 3 status (first in Colorado)
- Appointed a Task force to plan how we can raise the money to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant
  - Held Perspectiva Latino Candidate Forums, made VOTE411 improvements, and reached the community at VRDs
  - Became a founding member of the Boulder County Women’s Collaborative to influence and build strong coalitions among women’s organizations in our community
  - Starting to become a data driven organization; compiling data on communications, education, voter service and membership

### Where do we go in the future?

1. We have now increased our membership. Will these individuals **renew their membership** and help us impact our community in the future? We will need to get them involved on a **timely basis**. We will need to prove why the League’s participation in a project **adds value** and how we are **relevant**. Individuals want to **make a difference**. And our world is moving fast!
2. To continue our forward momentum we will need many more Leaguers with new energy!
3. We must be open to new strategies of approaching our mission. We must become a nimble organization, adapting to change. We will need to be open to new ways of doing things.
4. Keep working at engagement of **Young People and diverse communities**. We must roll up our sleeves and do it **THEIR** way.
5. Find and implement new ways to **fully support** our Issue Teams, Voter Service, and community education
6. Improve and refine our **data** to accurately measure our impact and outcomes
7. Continue to increase our influence with the use of **technology**
8. We will need to work on a **diversified and larger fund development portfolio** using our newly obtained 501 (c) 3 status to fund the work we must do in the community to advocate for better government policies that make peoples’ lives better
9. There is a need for an administrative assistant to continue our growth and to lessen the burden of volunteer administrative tasks
10. Continue to develop into an organization that moves from studies, self-education, and positions to **external ACTION and ADVOCACY**.
11. Become an organization that IS NOT all things to all members but becomes an organization **focusing on our key skills and competencies**. What are those?
12. Continue to work with LWVUS and LWVCO to implement the Campaign ***Making Democracy Work for All!***

“Logic gets you from Point A to Point B. Imagination will take you everywhere“ (—Albert Einstein).  
**Imaginative, visionary and creative leadership will be needed for the future for LWVBC to continue to thrive and grow.**

**Thank you for allowing me to be your President for the last two years.**

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Slate of nominees to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting, May 6, 2017

President	1-year term, 2017–18	Peggy Leech
1 <sup>st</sup> VP Voter Service	2-year term, 2017–19	Susan Saunders
Secretary	2-year term, 2017–19	Annie Lessem
Voter Editor Director	2-year term, 2017–19	Elizabeth Crowe
Fund Development Director	2-year term, 2017–19	Louisa Young
Action Director	2-year term, 2017–19	Mary Ann Wilner

According to the Bylaws, three Directors are elected each year for a two-year term. Each of the following nominations is for the 2nd year of a vacated 2016–18 Director position.

Membership Director	1-year position, 2017–18	Ruth Stemler
MLD Director	1-year position, 2017–18	*Sarah Levison
Nominating Committee (Off-Board)		
Chair	1-year term, 2017–18	Carolyn Elliott
Member	1-year term, 2017–18	Hugh Haskell
Member	1-year term, 2017–18	Marion Read

At its organizational meeting in the summer of 2017, the Board will appoint two of its members to also serve on the Nominating Committee

Continuing on Board by Virtue of Election at the 2016 Annual Meeting

2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Communications	2-year term, 2016–18	Rionda Osman
Treasurer	2-year term, 2016–18	*Lurbin Moore
Youth Engagement and Events Director	2-year term, 2016–18	Shiquita Yarbrough

Report submitted by the 2016-17 Nominating Committee

Chair — Frieda Holley  
Members — Catherine Felknor, Hugh Haskell, Peggy Leech, Sarah Levison  
Ex Officio — Liz Black

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*\*In August 2017 Sarah Levison and Lurbin Moore resigned from the board; Pat Long became Treasurer.*

### Bylaws Change Proposals (Summary)

*[members adopted all proposals]*

Article IV. Board of Directors: Section 1, Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. Proposal adjusts the numbers of elected and appointed Directors.

Article V. Officers: Section 1, Enumeration and Election of Officers. Proposal directs board to choose First and Second VPs from among the Directors. Section 5, The Treasurer. Proposal separates receipt and disbursement of funds between two individuals.

Article VI. Financial Administration: Section 2, Dues. Proposal makes dues effective for one year, no matter when the individual pays, removing the present across-the-board September 30th expiration.

## **2015–16 Financial Review Report**

January, 2017

Re: AUDIT REPORT of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County ("LWVBC") for Fiscal Year ("FY") 2015–16

We, the Audit Committee, have reviewed:

1. The implementation of recommendations from the Audit Report of FY2014–15
2. The record keeping of LWVBC which includes revenue and expenditures, beginning and ending cash balances and the FY end bank statement/reconciliation
3. Changes in recording keeping for FY2016–17

We, the Audit Committee, find that the books are an accurate reflection of the financial condition of the LWVBC for the FY2015–16 and of its operations and cash flows for that fiscal year. Further we commend the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for their commitment to accuracy, clarity, transparency and compliance with recommended best League and general accounting practices.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Vink, LWVBC member  
Jim Lovett

### **LWVBC Program Planning 2017 Jeannette Hillery**

There were 43 people at Program Planning. Two meetings were held.

Members did not ask for any positions to be removed or updated.

CONSENSUS: Members did agree to go to consensus on Voting Methods. Several years ago the Voting Methods Team studied voting methods and presented their material at member meetings but did not go to consensus. It was felt, given the present environment, that the League should have a position on this. The team quickly mobilized and updated the material for consensus in the spring of 2017.

LWVBC will present information on Voting Methods consensus to State League at convention requesting concurrence from other state leagues. There seems to be favorable opinion at the state level to pursue this information and consensus.

Other discussion topics were trying to give direction to the schools team, particularly in regard to St Vrain for any topics of importance, Topics suggested were: migrant children, vocational education, and curriculum about government.

**Strategic Planning**  
**Susan Saunders, Task Force Chair**

The annual meeting of the LWVBC finds us closing in on our second year of strategic planning. It began with a retreat in July, which included old and new Board members and the leaders of our Issue Teams. Progress on our five goal categories was reviewed and revisions and/or expansion of the goals were discussed. Everyone participated in the review of a new form of goal statement, designed to give us improved measuring tools for our progress.

Focus on expanding the visibility of the LWVBC Issue Teams and their vast store of knowledge has driven much of our activity this year. Community Conversations and Drinks & Dialog events were successful in informing our members, and large numbers of non-members, about topics relevant to their communities and to voters. Conversations between members and non-members were refreshing and a great opportunity to advertise the purpose of the League. The suggestion of non-partisan actions individuals could take, to engage in their community governance, empowered members of the audience. We are beginning to think encouraging people to take action is catching on and it certainly fits our mission.

A cooperative effort with the radio station, KGNU, also has expanded our reach to many listeners through our monthly pieces on topics relevant to the League and its workings. The result of all this visibility was the pleasant and sizable jump in membership, reaching 215 this spring.

Service to this larger membership has encouraged us in another of our goals to streamline communications and record keeping. A new membership management software package is enabling us to improve our website, target our event messaging, and in time, to survey our members to keep more current with their interests.

We are still a bit cautious, but gaining confidence the League is headed for renewed trust as leaders in informed governance. As we approach the third year of our planning and implementation, the Board welcomes questions and suggestions about the efforts to keep the LWVBC relevant to Boulder County.

**Action and Advocacy Director**  
**Jeannette Hillery**

The past year has been an active and exciting year for the Boulder League. At State and Local program planning, the League adopted a new study on Voting Methods, went to consensus and then presented the consensus to State to be considered as a concurrence at the 2017 state convention. This was approved by state and will be considered in May 2017.

Action teams have been busy with presentations on Money in Politics, Voting Methods and Immigration information. We have a new working relationship with the local radio station, KGNU and are presenting monthly four-minute spots on a variety of topics. This will continue through 2017 and is under the Making Democracy Work umbrella. Keeping the tag line [lwwbc.org](http://lwwbc.org) in front of audiences is a good way to attract more people.

With the events coordinator, the Drinks and Dialogue has presented in new locations to various audiences around the county and we have seen an increase in attendance and in membership. The more venues we show a presence, the better we are known.

**Communications Director /2nd VP, Voter Editor, and Assistant Webmaster  
Rionda Osman**

**The Boulder County Voter**

The Boulder County Voter has appeared 17 times since September 2015. All issues are posted on the LWVBC web site. Our Board members and Team Leaders have provided us with good, timely information, and we are always in the market for stories, items, and photos from our members. Remember, if you're interested in something, someone else probably needs to know about it.

**Communications Coordination**

The new position that was created last year coordinates all the requests for communication services: posting to the website, publishing in the newsletter, posting on Facebook, sending email blasts to members and the community, contacting radio, TV, and newspapers and other kinds of news outlets. Our Facebook page has recently been under the care of Emily Eley. We have started a Meetup group this year to advertise our events to a larger community. At the present time, we have 100 followers on Meetup who receive notices for all of our events.

Laura Coates has continued to be our emailing guru. Our current emailing system, Vertical Response, has proved even more taxing this year. However, with the new Club Express membership management software system, we will have unlimited emailing capabilities. The system is challenging, and we have a learning curve to negotiate to use these new tools.

This year Jeannette Hillary began a series of radio updates on KGNU. The League has about 4-5 min per month to let the community know what we're doing. Jeannette has covered: "A Preview of the New Assembly" and "How a Bill Becomes a Law". In March the Campaign Finance Reform Team talked about Money in Politics.

My goal has been to make our information easily accessible so that our members and the community can learn about upcoming events, as well as find out what happened and what comes next. We need help keeping up the community calendars and sending information to news outlets.

**The LWVBC Website from Deborah Hayes, our Web Master:**

In March, following our League board's decision to contract with Club Express, a member management system, our website moved to the Club Express system as well.

**Events/ Education Director/1st VP  
Peggy Leech**

The Events Team planned and scheduled 32 meetings/events for the period of July 2016 through June 2017. These include 9 member meetings, 11 ballot issue-related meetings, 9 Community Conversations, and 3 Drinks and Dialogue events. There were several innovations during the year, most notably: Drinks and Dialogue, use of technology (Facebook Live and YouTube), and a Holiday Wine and Cheese party with free admission for non-member guests. We followed the LWV theme of Making Democracy Work for All.

For the 28 meetings/events that have been held through March 2017, average attendance figures are as follows:

Type	League members	Non-members	Total
Member meetings	27	4	31
Ballot issues/Amendments	10	19	29
Community Conversations	18	24	42
Drinks & Dialogue	18	28	46

I owe a big shout-out to the Events Team: Shiquita Yarbrough, Ruth Stemler, and Marion Read. These members helped tremendously in the planning and hosting of the events, including setup, sign-ins and greeting our guests, making introductions of speakers, and countless other details. And thank you to the Technology Team who helped us with Facebook Live and other issues: Laura Coates, Shiquita Yarbrough, Ruth Stemler, and Dave Stemler. We had some more help with setup and sign-ins, mostly from Liz Nick, Pat Long, and Carla Bigum, and some behind—the-scenes assistance from Diana Barney. Kay Forsythe and Mickey Greenberg arranged and hosted the meetings at Frasier. And the Issue Teams provided topics and speakers for some of the Community Conversations and the informational sessions for Amendments 69 and 70. Voters Service provided speakers for the ballot issue presentations. Many members made contributions of wine, food, money, and gifts for the Holiday Party. Thank you to all who have helped this year!

**Fund Development Co-Directors  
Lois Linsky and Louisa Young**

The Fund Development Co-Chairs have had a banner year. Of course the big news for 2016–17 is that we attained 501(c)(3) status with IRS. We hope all of you took your generous contribution to the Boulder County League into consideration when you prepared your income tax returns for 2016. The money you gave the League on or after September 24, 2016, including dues, is tax deductible. We have applied for grants in the recent past and had to use the LWVCO Education Fund as a conduit, which complicates such questions as budget numbers. The process will be much easier going forward. We have applied for several grants during the year and received one from the LWVCO Project Fund Grant, from the Boulder County Bar Association, and from the Boulder Community Foundation. Skill development is ongoing.



We are planning a celebration of our Tax Exempt Status in the near future. It will be a fundraiser, of course.

A year ago we initiated the sale of tickets to the Duck Race connected with Rhythm on the River in Longmont, and many rose to the challenge. We netted \$600, which is enough to encourage us to do it again. We had the annual bulb sales which brought in \$1060.10, and will sell bulbs again this year. We are always on the lookout for new ideas, so please get creative and share your thoughts.

It is disappointing that more people are not using grocery gift cards. The program is underutilized although it is easy for an individual to use, and potentially lucrative to LWVBC. Last year it brought in \$2216.95, but other Leagues make twice that. If you are one of the many who do not have one, contact a Fund Development Team member.

**Membership Director  
Liz Black**

The membership team included seasoned member Debby Vink who maintains our own local member records and also makes sure that the state league is kept current and national league's roster is up to date with all changes through the year. Last year we learned to use the new roster system of the LWVUS and this year on the local level we transitioned to Club Express which provides an integrated system where both member and non-member records are kept. Loading the information into Club Express has been completed. As we move forward, members are encouraged to login on the new LWVBC website where they can not only expand their own profile with a bio or photo but can refer to the member directory when they wish to reach out to or know more about other members.

Another area in which we made innovations this year was the membership handbook. Elaine Brenner not only did a superb job editing the material and reformatting into sections but helped with punching holes and inserting paper fasteners as part of the handbook assembly process. Having a printed handbook and being able to flip pages and see program positions developed at all three levels of the league is a necessary complement to the web for situations when it is impractical or inconvenient to seek out that information online. The advantage of the sections is that in the future members can add new material and replace the sections which have changed, saving us reprinting expenses. Distribution of handbooks was facilitated by over a dozen individuals who stepped up and made deliveries to members in their part of the county. Their help is greatly appreciated.

For a time, Louisa Matthias continued to record member attendance at league events and keep track of the issues which those who join tell us they are most interested in. But changes took place. Members joining through our old website entered their interests on a spreadsheet which was automatically forwarded so the membership team could connect them with leaguers with whom they have something in common. Once we enable the Join Wizard on the new website, which will likely happen in early May, applicants will be able to provide us with an even more complete profile. And we may soon have the capability for greeters at our events to enter or check off the names of attendees on an electronic device, making our sign-in sheets obsolete. The nominations committee finds all this information comes in handy as they invite members to step up their level of involvement in the LWVBC.

Sarah Levinson generously passes on to the team ideas from the Member and Leadership Development coaches and helped in the early stages as we made plans to reach out to and get feedback from all our members. We hope this initiative, when completed, will yield valuable results, particularly as we've seen a surge of new members. Did they join because they learned of our league's work on voting methods other than plurality? Or were they jolted out of complacency by the results of November's general election? We know that some learned about our League through Meetup and other social media sites. We have made strides in increasing age, gender, and geographic diversity of our members. The average birth year of all 215 of our members is 1947. The average birth year of the 52 who've joined since June 2016 is 1957. Men make up 13.5% of our membership overall, while making up 15.1% of those new to our group since last June. Although 63% of all members reside in the city of Boulder, the percentage of Boulder residents drops to 49% when we consider only those who've joined recently. (Figures given as of 4/16/2017.) Our assessment to the state and national leagues are based on total members as of Jan 31. The local league has grown by 9.3% over the past year, with Per Member Payment counts of 172 in 2016 and 188 in 2017.

**Membership and Leadership Development Director  
Sarah Levison**

During the past year the work on the strategic plan continued. There was outreach to one youth council, the one in Longmont. Their project this year was to see what they could do to combat teen suicide. On behalf of the League, our support of their work was extended if they wanted our help. The Boulder County League participated most months in MLD calls with coach Gerry Cummins. We continued to refine what our league needs as far as targeted education on MLD. Many times the Guidance was on a topic that our Boulder County League has already been working on successfully.

Director played a role in fundraising - identifying a new opportunity with the St. Vrain Rotary Club. Their annual Duck Race fundraiser helps nonprofits by selling the face value tickets worth \$5 for \$1. The League sold the tickets for \$5 and were able to keep the \$4 for our organization. Several League board members purchased tickets — donating the \$1 per ticket so that the League got all \$5 of the sold tickets. Thanks to League members who purchased Duck Race tickets at the 2016 annual meeting, over \$600 was raised.

Other accomplishments were to support Membership Director Liz Black in her work to develop the script for contacting each League member. Research was begun to assess the many leadership programs that offer general and specialized training at cost or free for County residents. We have already identified that many groups that have leadership programs that include civics do not know that the League has a curriculum developed to educate on Civics 101. The next step is to work with the Communications team to be sure we get the word out about the League's excellent education programs.

MLD director frequently attends committee meetings for the Campaign Finance and Membership committees.

**Voter Service Director  
Susan Saunders**

Voter Service for the 2016–17 election cycle moved along like a well-oiled machine without too many demands on the "pit crew". Ballot Issue presentations were held in the fall with new grant support from the Boulder County Bar Association, for printing our pamphlets. VOTE411 was available online due to dedicated effort from Diana Haskell. Our candidate forums jumped to the forefront with three specifically for the Latino community. Kudos to Liz Nick and all those who made that connection work so well, blending our trusted formats with new audiences. This next year we've been invited by the Longmont Chamber to revive our collaboration with them on a City Council candidate forum.

As I reported in the December issue of the Voter, we held 14 voter registration drives in the 2016 cycle. This spring we have already held two more, one on Doing Democracy Day with the St. Vrain Valley School District and one at Front Range Community College during their "Take Back the Night" event to raise awareness regarding sexual violence. In addition, we've signed up to provide registration assistance at the May-October Farmers Markets in Boulder and Longmont, the Cinco de Mayo Festival and the Colorado Latino Festival - LatinoFest. I'm sure there will be more opportunities and we are looking forward to working at Naturalization ceremonies.

Other vote related activities have involved the Voting Methods Team, making their three presentations on alternate methods, which were quite informative and well received by the public. The multiple showings of "I Voted?" also have stimulated great conversations in the community regarding the security of our voting systems in the USA. It's nice to have heard "thank you for bringing this to our attention" from so many attendees.

Keep your eyes out for calls to volunteers as we progress in 2017.

**Youth Engagement & Internship and Events Director  
Shiquita Yarbrough**

Last year was the start and continuation of successful awareness of the League in the community.

We started livestreaming on Facebook so that people who couldn't make it to the events, were still able to receive and hear the appointed speaker's information. As time goes on, more people will join us online and see that the League is accommodating all generations in communicating issues in our community.

The wine and cheese social was a great success! This event provided the opportunity to network and meet new people while discussing all of what the League is doing. I hope we will be able to have this event again this year.

Meetup was a suggestion to provide another avenue of communication to all generations and I have spoken to many people at our events who told me that they saw the event on Meetup. People who had just moved to Colorado found us on Meetup and came to the meeting. We are almost at 100 members.

Ruth noticed that other leagues across the nation were implementing events with Dinner and Drinks, so we discussed and decided to do something similar in Boulder County called Drinks and Dialogues. I believe the D&D has been very successful in the short amount of time since we started. People seem to be more relaxed and open to the speakers as well as willing to speak more.

I have tried several ways of recruiting an intern but due to last year being an election semester, the response was very minimal. So, we decided to collaborate with Maeve Conran at KGNU to share an intern. Maeve and I have been sending out the job description but little response was returned. We are in great hopes in finding someone that will be a wonderful fit for our League and KGNU.

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF ISSUE TEAM LEADERS**

**Campaign Finance Reform Team  
Shirley Jin, Leader**

The Campaign Finance Team has developed a short five minute power point presentation to inform others about Money in Politics. The presentation includes voice and will run automatically. It is intended to be shown at the start or ending of any group meeting. We will take it to the Colorado State

Convention in May and will make it available to all local leagues. In addition, we are working on a longer training power point presentation to provide more information to convention attendees.

We recently gave a four-minute talk on KGNU to inform their audience about Money in Politics. This was part of LWVBC's monthly informational series with KGNU. We have also recently restarted our Money In Politics Blasts to inform people about new developments. This has been facilitated by LWVBC's new website and its capability of maintaining a database and sending out emails.

We very much welcome new members to our team!

**Health Care Team  
Mary Anna Dunn, Leader**

During autumn 2016 the Health Care Team's efforts went largely toward promoting Amendment 69, the ballot issue for ColoradoCare. We arranged five educational/advocacy sessions throughout Boulder County. Although the November vote was negative, we hope that our efforts toward educating the public about single-payer healthcare were constructive. We also continued interaction with other organizations focused on mental health and participated in relevant training programs, such as SafeTALK on suicide prevention. In early 2017 our advocacy efforts continued the focus on behavioral health, notably with a KGNU commentary and individual communication with elected officials. Team members' engagement with NAMI, the Boulder County Public Health Improvement Process, and other local and national organizations allows us to continue educating ourselves and to plan where to focus our efforts for education and advocacy. The national turmoil about health care demands attention as well. We have been glad to welcome some new team participants.

**Schools Team  
Linda Hultman, Leader**

Schools Committee had an active year. Both of our school districts, Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District, had ballot issues in the fall elections. We spent the fall researching these issues and recommended a "Yes" vote on the St. Vrain bond issue and had no recommendation on the BVSD mill levy over-ride. Both issues passed.

We have been following the possible BVSD University Hill Elementary School sale to CU. We have attended several board meetings to make presentations and have had a great deal of communication with the BVSD board. At this point in time, it appears the school will not be sold.

We continue to follow education issues in both districts and at the state legislature. We have also begun a study of the teaching of civics/government in the districts. This coming fall there will be school board elections in both districts.

**Social Policy Team**  
**Mary Ann Wilner, Leader**

The Social Policy Team in 2016-2017 focused on raising the living wage for municipal and contract workers in Boulder city and educating the public on the rights of undocumented residents. In Fall 2016 Boulder City Council voted to raise the minimum wage for all city workers to \$15.67 and to bring contract custodial workers cleaning all the city buildings into the city workforce with full benefits. Standard city workers started receiving \$15.67 hourly pay on Jan. 1, 2017, while city staff will report to Council in April, 2017 on the method and time frame for bringing custodial workers in-house. These wins resulted from leadership by the LWVBC in collaboration with the Human Relations Commission, the Latino Task Force of Boulder County, the Boulder Labor Council and many other supportive organizations and individuals.

The SPT continues to pursue raising wages for Boulder County municipal workers and is focusing its 2017 efforts on Longmont and is exploring an initiative to create a "banner employer" program, modeled after La Plata County where private employers whose wages reach a certain level receive incentives and wide publicity.

A subgroup of the SPT researched the rights of undocumented immigrants and presented their findings to two well-attended audiences in Boulder and Lafayette and through our monthly radio spot on KGNU. One of the public forums was held in conjunction with a Latina-owned art gallery in Lafayette that showcased photos of local undocumented residents, several of whom attended our forum and contributed to the discussion.

**Voting Methods Team**  
**Celeste Landry, Leader**

The 2016 presidential election and Maine's passage of instant-runoff voting re-energized our local League and the state League to educate citizens about better voting methods than plurality voting. Because we had done an all-but-the-consensus-meetings study in 2013 and gave a featured presentation at League Day in 2015, we were positioned to hold consensus meetings in February and March, to successfully adopt a position and to get a LWVCO recommendation for concurrence at the upcoming state convention.

We also organized our *More Choices for Voters* series consisting of three public presentations which were streamed on Facebook Live:

- Feb 2: Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) with FairVote's Executive Director Rob Richie (Richie and our team leader Celeste Landry were interviewed on KGNU on Feb 1.)
- Feb 21: Approval Voting with Center for Election Science board member Neal McBurnett and HB17-1281's co-sponsor Representative Jonathan Singer
- April 18: Proportional Representation with former Green Party gubernatorial candidate Harry Hempy, Best Democracy's Jesse Kumin and previous speaker Neal McBurnett

In preparation for our consensus meetings, we created a comprehensive study packet covering the most well-known single-winner voting methods, their use in Colorado and beyond, and the voting methods positions of other state and local Leagues. We included the consensus questions, updated the packet with the approved position and included resources and a vocabulary list. We also created a 25-minute Voting Methods 101 video to share with other Leagues.

Our position encourages on-the-ground experience with alternative voting methods. The full position and our other materials may be accessed on our webpage: [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org), Teams at Work, Voting Methods Team.

We have also been in the community via a letter to the Daily Camera about alternative voting methods, participation in the annual Electoral Reform Symposium, speaking on a panel at the state Libertarian convention, and communication with RCV and approval voting groups in Colorado. We have gained new Voting Methods Team members as well as new League members because of interest in this topic.