



# The Boulder County Voter

1 June 2017

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**Hello,**

LWVBC leaders have just returned from a great state convention in Ft. Collins. Please refer to the article in this issue of the Boulder County Voter for more details. And join us on 3 June, 10:30 am at the Meadows branch of the Boulder library for a cup of coffee/tea and to learn from those who attended! Don't miss this opportunity to attend an LWVBC event in Boulder.



Ruth Stemler, President, LWVBC

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## Exemption Extravaganza: 15 June at Ollin Farms

Plan to join us on 15 June for an evening of philanthropy, "EXEMPTION EXTRAVAGANZA."

**Where:** Ollin Farms, 8627 N. 95th Street, Longmont

**When:** Thursday, 15 June from 5-8 pm

**Deadline for reservations: June 10**

Our fundraiser at Ollin Farms near Longmont will celebrate our 501 (c) 3 status and is reminiscent of picnics in years past! The funds raised are a vital way for YOU to help us continue our

work in Boulder County. And Louisa Young and Lois Linsky have planned some fun - hay rack ride, farm tour, live music and a glass of wine!

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## President's Letter

(continued)

Susan Saunders and I have been asked to present at the LWVCO Leadership Retreat in July in Frisco. The state board asked us to lead a session on how strategic planning can help prioritize and meet League goals. Strategic plans are in the works in the Weld county league and are being considered in Arapahoe/Douglas county. We'll keep you posted on their progress.

This is my last President's letter. Thank you for allowing me to serve. I have learned so much over the past two years and have really enjoyed getting to know many of you. Hope to see you soon. Have a great summer!

Ruth

## Exemption Extravaganza (continued)

Ollin Farms is an organic operation, and their chef will prepare farm fresh appetizers for us. There will be live music. Chris Barge, of the Community Foundation for Boulder will speak at about 6 on Philanthropy in Boulder County

**Cost:** In recognition of our 501(c)(3) status

- Silver level: \$50.13
- Gold level: \$150.13
- Platinum level: \$250.13
- Diamond level: \$501.30

(In keeping with IRS rules, know that you will receive \$35 worth of goods for your payment, so you can deduct \$15.13, \$115.13, \$215.13, and \$466.30, respectively)

**Deadline for reservations: 10 June.** Make payment to LWVBC, P. O. Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308-4274 or on our website [LWVBC.org](http://LWVBC.org).

## Mark Your Calendars

June, 2017

Saturday	<b>3</b>	<b>Post-Convention Coffee</b> Meadows Public Library 10:30 AM <a href="#">More Info</a>
Wednesday	<b>7</b>	<b>Campaign Finance Reform Team Meeting</b> Contact our team leader for details 6:30 PM
Saturday	<b>10</b>	<b>Longmont Farmer's Market Voter Registration</b> Drive 7:00 AM - 1:15 PM Longmont Farmers Market Boulder County Fairgrounds 7:00 AM <a href="#">More Info</a>
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Thursday	<b>22</b>	<b>LWVUS Council</b> 8:00 AM <a href="#">More Info</a>
Sunday	<b>25</b>	<b>Colorado Latino Festival – Longmont 11:00 AM - 7:15 PM</b> Downtown Longmont 11:00 AM <a href="#">More Info</a>
Tuesday	<b>27</b>	<b>Health Care Team Meeting</b> Contact team leader - teams@lwvbc.org 10:00 AM

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

Membership: 220 as of May 2017

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)



# The Boulder County Voter

1 June 2017

## From the Annual Meeting – 6 May 2017

From Ruth Stemler



Marion Read at the check-in table. Annual Meeting, 6 May 2017

Fifty-three members and four guests attended the 2017 LWVBC Annual Meeting and celebration on 6 May at Nissi's in Lafayette. Thank you to Peggy Leech and her Events Team for arranging another enjoyable buffet and get-together. Justine Vigil-Tapia and Marjorie McIntosh spoke to the group on the Latino History Project's book *Latinos of Boulder County, Colorado, 1900 - 1980*. Visit their website: [Boulder County Latino History Project](#).

Following the speakers, the annual business meeting was held. Reports were presented on the outstanding accomplishments of the past year; financial review and budget, program planning, nominating committee, bylaws revisions, dues increase, strategic plan, and reports from officers, directors and issue team leaders. View the complete [Annual Meeting Photo Album](#) on our website

Revisions in the bylaws included changes to the board of directors, enumeration and election of officers, treasurer and dues. Changes of note include an increase of dues to \$66 for individual members effective immediately. Other dues increases for various categories of membership can be found on the LWVBC website. Updates in the dues section of the bylaws also included a change to the annual membership renewal date that is 12 months from the date of joining, a rolling membership. We will no longer renew all memberships on the same date in September. Please contact the Membership

Director with questions.

The fund development team was in attendance and raised much needed funds for LWVBC with bulb and duck race ticket sales. To prepare for the member section of our new website, members attending had their picture taken at our "photo booth."

The highlight of the morning was the presentation of awards to our important partners in the community and to our hard-working members. The awards are described in detail in this Voter.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped us celebrate the great work of LWVBC in 2016 - 17!



Breakfast buffet at the Annual Meeting. 6 May 2017





# *The Boulder County Voter*

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## **League of Women Voters of Boulder County: 2017 Member Achievement Awards**

From Liz Black

### **Emerging Leader of the Year - Shiquita Yarbrough – announced by Liz Black**

Shiquita Yarbrough joined in 2015 and took a board position soon after. As internship coordinator, she mentored Giorgio Ausenda. Her networking impulses led to planning for future interns who will split time between us and KGNU. Shiquita knows tools such as Facebook Live. Because of her efforts, our organization keeps current with whichever social medium is gaining in popularity. While serving on the Events Team she suggested and brought to fruition innovations which appealed to women like herself of Generation X. She is amazing in front of a room, as when she spoke to Circles about the importance of informing oneself before voting. She expertly moderated two Drinks and Dialogues. For persons from categories under-represented in the league, her presence demonstrates that they, too, might find a place and make a difference within our ranks.

### **Board Member with Outstanding Vision and Leadership - Ruth Stemler – announced by Jeanine Pow**

From time to time organizations have the opportunity and, indeed, the vital need to expand their direction and focus through fresh vision and leadership. The LWVBC is lucky to have just such a visionary leader working on our behalf.

During her tenure on the board during the past year, Ruth Stemler has worked tirelessly to increase the League's level of inclusiveness, involvement in the community dialogue and our visibility as an organization.

Ruth has worked to revitalize our membership by actively reaching out to young and diverse community organizations and residents of Boulder County. She created a Speakers' Bureau and developed an informational power point presentation about the League which she and other Leaguers have presented to a variety of community groups. She has cultivated partnerships with diverse community groups to provide joint voter registration drives, candidate forums and ballot issue presentations. Ruth has been actively involved in formation of the Women's Collaborative of Boulder County, thereby increasing the League's visibility with other similarly aligned nonprofits.

As a member of the Events Team, she has spent many hours planning and participating in League programming to address pressing community concerns such as the Electoral College, Redistricting and Voter Suppression. She conferred with a consultant and arranged to have our programs made available to the public and other Leagues through Facebook Live and through YouTube for those not plugged into Facebook. Ruth has been a driving force in launching the new "Drinks and Dialogue" evening programming which has been very successful in attracting a mix of Leaguers and non-members at the end of the work day. She donated bookkeeping hardware and software thereby enhancing the LWVBC's financial management capacity. She recruited several new Board members with diverse backgrounds to expand the League's perspective and ability to serve the entire County and started an annual coffee to report to the membership on business conducted at the LWVUS and LWVCO conventions.

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## **Board Member with Outstanding Vision and Leadership - Ruth Stemler (continued)**

In short, Ruth is a decisive and energetic visionary who has raised the League bar to a much higher level of community visibility and involvement. For that we owe her a continuing debt of gratitude and we're pleased to present her with the 2017 Board Member of the Year award.

## **Member of the Year - Rionda Osman – announced by Deborah Hayes**

Rionda Osman's leadership has made possible our League's rapidly increasing use of innovative technology to strengthen communication among members and the community. Rionda is extraordinarily generous in contributing her technological expertise to League education and advocacy. She is an active member of the Campaign Finance Reform Team. She has been our Voter Editor for two years. And she leads the Communications Team. Earlier this year, upon Rionda's recommendation the board contracted with Club Express. Rionda then directed the transformation of our somewhat traditional website into a complex online administrative hub. Rionda's achievements and leadership abilities are awe-inspiring.

## **Issue Team Leader of the Year - Celeste Landry – announced by Ceal Ruffing**

I am honored to announce Celeste Landry as our Outstanding Team Leader of 2017!

This year offered our Voting Methods Team an opportunity to respond to a community calling for better democratic process. Celeste showed us how to seize the day --- from supporting a series of public education events to spear-heading a new voting methods position and recommended state concurrence.

Celeste grew our team and our League by engaging with other community organizations, participating in electoral reform activities, and putting herself out there when her expertise was needed.

During an exciting and demanding endeavor, Celeste has kept us on track and involved. She leads and inspires with just the right mix of calm dedication and enthusiasm. Celeste is our Outstanding Team Leader!

## **Team Member of the Year - Marion Read – announced by Peggy Leech**

I am honored to present the award for Team Member of the Year. Marion Read is an enthusiastic member of the Events Team.

She loves planning events, finding venues, making arrangements, and then working at the sign-in table for so many of our events. She is good at networking and getting ideas about topics and venues from her various contacts.

Marion is very good at seeing a need and coming up with a solution. For instance, people were asking her at the sign-in table how they could become involved with the League. So she developed a handout, with its content now on our website as well.

Marion has also been a Membership Leadership Development (MLD) Coach this year, and she shares ideas with various local Leagues and from the state League. She is truly an outstanding Team Member, and we have been lucky to have her on the Events Team.



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## **LWVCO Convention 2017**

From Ruth Stemler

Fourteen Boulder County league leaders attended the LWVCO convention 2017 in Ft. Collins on 20 and 21 May. The main theme of the convention was the LWVUS national campaign Making Democracy Work! The major topics discussed were Money in Politics and Voting Methods. LWVBC led the way on both topics, a proud reminder of the dedicated work and respected expertise of these two Issue Teams!

We voted to concur with the LWVBC position on Voting Methods, delete the position on precinct caucus/assembly system, apply to the IRS for 501 (c) 3 status/dissolve the 501 (c) 4, revise bylaws, approve the budget and elect new members of the Board of Directors.

Ruth Stemler was elected Director at Large. Delegates received an update on the 2017 Colorado legislative session from Andrea Wilkins, our new staff lobbyist. LWVBC delegates were honored to accept the Community Connections Award. Mary Ann Wilner received the Individual Achievement Award for the SP Team's work on Living Wage. Flodie Anderson received the lifetime achievement award. She is now a member of LWVBC living at Frasier.

Other Leagues wanted to learn about our dynamic drinks and dialogue meeting format and the strategic planning process. We learned other leagues are facing the same challenges as LWVBC; recruiting younger and more diverse members, remaining relevant, moving to action and advocacy, recruiting volunteers, raising additional revenue, and facing technology challenges. It seems all LWVBC delegates and observers enjoyed the development opportunity to network with and learn from leaders across Colorado.

Attend our 3 June 2017, 10:30 am coffee at the Meadows branch of the Boulder library for the convention update!

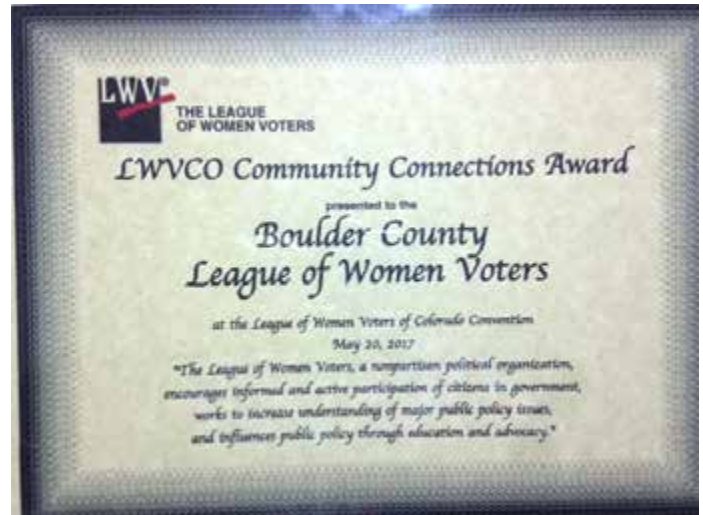
## **News on Redistricting in Colorado**

From Peggy Leech

At the state convention in Fort Collins, we heard a report from Toni Larson, First VP (Program) for LWVCO. There will be an article about this in the next state Voter, but here is a preview.

A coalition of groups, legislators (past and present), and the political parties have been working on redistricting reform. They have broadened their coalition and asked LWVCO to participate. Basically, the proposal is to establish a commission, both for the state legislative districts and the U.S. congressional districts. The commission would include members of the two major parties AND unaffiliated voters.

The goal is to bring this to the ballot in 2018. Will it be referred to the ballot by the legislature? Or will it be a citizens' initiative? More details at the Post-Convention Coffee on 3 June, and in the next state Voter.





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## FUNDRAISERS UNDERWAY

From Louisa Young



### Bulb Sale Deadline Extended to 5 June !

There are multiple opportunities coming your way to help the League raise money for its important work.

Bulbs are for sale again. Beautiful, high quality bulbs from Holland are available for order as we have done for the last few years. Call or email Lois (303-499-2689) ([lfinsky@hotmail.com](mailto:lfinsky@hotmail.com)) or Louisa (303-444-4628) ([Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU)). Order and pay for them now; they will be delivered in the Fall; plant them in the Fall and you can enjoy their beauty a year from now. Last year we made over \$1000 for the League with this fundraiser. The deadline for orders is 5 June.



### Get Your Duck Race Tickets !

Rotary Club of Longmont St Vrain – 18th Annual Duck Race 2017

Saturday, 8 July 2017, at 6:30pm at Longmont's annual "Rhythm on the River" festival

Contact Louisa (303-444-4628; [Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU)) or Ruth (303-916-1519; [rjstemler@gmail.com](mailto:rjstemler@gmail.com)) to buy tickets at \$5 each. Last year we netted \$600 on this fun activity. The race is part of the Longmont Rhythm on the River 7 & 8 July festival, and it's a lot of fun. Cash prizes are awarded.



Remember to reload your grocery card. Every time you do, the League gets money !! Email [Louisa Young](mailto:Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU) for details.





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## Voter Registration Drives

### The easiest volunteer opportunity in the League!

Two volunteers are needed for each time slot noted below.

Don't be shy! You will be working with an experienced voter registrar at all times.

Please contact Susan Saunders, [okbeeb@gmail.com](mailto:okbeeb@gmail.com), to sign up and learn the details. You can also try out our new online [Volunteering Opportunities Registration Page](#).



#### **Boulder Farmers Market Saturdays, 7/8, 9/9**

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (including help with booth set-up)  
7:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

12:00 to 2:15 p.m. (including help with booth break down)



#### **Longmont Farmers Market Saturdays, 6/10, 8/26, 10/7**

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (including help with booth set up)  
7:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.



#### **LatinxFest Longmont Sunday, 6/25/17**

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (including booth set up)  
12:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
5:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. (including break down)



To get a head start on the 5-minute Circulator Training, please use the following link or cut and paste it into your browser. Then select Circulator Training in English and follow the instructions.

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/VoterRegDrive/VRDhome.html>







# The Boulder County Voter

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## Club Express: Our New Toolkit

From Rionda Osman

Our Club Express Membership Management Software system is up and running.

We're finding more ways to use the tools Club Express gives us, and more people are getting comfortable with those tools.

If you haven't stopped by the website lately, you'll find that Deborah Hayes has made quite a few changes. Deborah has been working hard to link up all of our information and to make it easy to find.

Club Express is letting us be data-savvy. Liz Black and Debby Vink have our membership data in the database, and we will be able to manage all the tasks of communicating with our members much more efficiently. Pat Long and Lurbin Moore are using reports from Club Express to verify their accounts. Our Board members can get information much more quickly.

Peggy Leech and the Events Team are able to update the calendar, collect money, and communicate with people who are coming to events.

We ask that you register for events online – when we have a headcount ahead of time, we can better prepare to welcome you.

You must log in to see all of the features. Our web address is: [www.lwvbc.org](http://www.lwvbc.org)

If you have lost your password, contact Deborah Hayes or Rionda Osman for [Password Assistance](#).

## LWVBC on KGNU

[KGNU](#) continues its partnership with the League of Women Voters of Boulder County. Together, we are creating a monthly commentary series called Making Democracy Work for All! which focuses on educating listeners on the workings of state and local government and letting them know how they can get involved at different stages of the political process.

This month Jeannette Hillery reviewed the 2017 state legislative session: [2017 State Legislative Review](#). This update aired on 25 May 2017.

The 2017 legislative session ended on May 10th with more bipartisanship than initially expected. A few strongly partisan bills introduced by both parties were killed during the session. Remember that the Colorado Senate is Republican controlled and the Colorado House is Democratic controlled.

The biggest priorities of the session were funding for transportation infrastructure. The major transportation bill, HB 1242 failed but another bill is addressing some of the issues. Also, addressing the hospital provider fee issue and allowing it to become an enterprise fund would alleviate other TABOR, Taxpayer Bill of Rights issues. More later. And financing of K-12 education.



**Don't Miss Anything !**

June, 2017

Saturday <b>3</b>	<b>Post-Convention Coffee</b> Meadows Public Library 10:30 AM <a href="#">More Info</a>
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Boulder CO 80308