



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

Virtual Annual Meeting
May 2, 2020

League of Women Voters 2020 Mission and Guiding Principles

As LWWUS celebrates their 100th anniversary in 2020:

We were founded in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The **GOAL** of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities.

Mission: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Vision: We envision a democracy where **every person** has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to **participate**.

Guiding Principles:

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization which:

- Acts after study and member agreement to achieve solution in the public interest on key community issues at all levels of government
- Builds citizen participation in the democratic process
- Engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy

We believe in:

- Respect for individuals
- The value of diversity
- The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities

We will:

- Act with trust, integrity and professionalism
- Operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both our members and the public
- Take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership
- Acknowledge our heritage as we seek a path to the future

Two Roles:

1. **Voter Service/Education:** Present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process and issues.
2. **Issues/Action/Advocacy:** Use our Program Positions to advocate for or against public policy issues in our community in the public interest.

2020 Annual Meeting Agenda
 League of Women Voters of Boulder County
 May 2, 2020 via Zoom video conferencing

10:00 am	Introduction	Mandy Nuku, Operations Coordinator
	Call to Order/Business Meeting Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting	Susan Saunders, Co-President
	President's Welcome and Report	Peggy Leech, Co-President
	Adoption of Rules of Procedure Adoption of Agenda	Susan Saunders
	Treasurer's Report and Financial Review	Pat Long, Treasurer
	Presentation: Fundraising Future Prospects Proposed 2020 – 21 Budget Adoption of Budget	Anne Bryan, Fund Development Susan Saunders
	Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Change Adoption of Bylaws Change	Susan Saunders
	Presentation of Proposed Program Adoption of Proposed Program	Mary Ann Wilner, Action/Advocacy Director
	Report of the Nominating Committee Election of Officers and Directors	Carolyn Elliott, Nominating Committee
	Members' Direction to the Board	
10:50	LWVBC Slideshow/Break	Erin Lindblom, Intern
11:00 am	Community Awards	Peggy Leech
11:10 am	Student Scholarship Award Member Recognition	Debby Vink, Membership Director
11:25 am	Announcements: Bulbs Upcoming Events	Lois Linsky Susan Saunders
11:30 am	Adjourn	

Co-presidents' annual report, 2019-2020
Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders, co-presidents

Only twice in our history have we elected co-presidents (1989-1990 LWV Boulder Valley, and 1997-1999 LWV Longmont). At last year's Annual Meeting, LWVBC decided to try it a third time, and elected co-presidents Peggy Leech, Community Engagement, and Susan Saunders, Administrative. The system seemed to work well this year, although we struggled a bit with overlap (that's because we like a lot of the same things!). One of the main benefits was to have the support and counsel of each other while facing various challenges. And, of course, it was beneficial to have a division of labor. It was so successful that we have again nominated co-presidents for election at this year's Annual Meeting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

In 2019, LWVBC received a grant from the Community Foundation of Boulder County to do community DEI presentations and internal DEI training. 3 events/workshops took place during June and July and were quite successful. The board is starting to make further progress in incorporating DEI into our community activities and into our member/board diversity. Peggy and Susan are participating in an "Inclusive Leadership Cohort" with other non-profits, facilitated by Elvira Ramos from the Community Foundation. See the Strategic Planning annual report for more details on DEI work.

Community engagement and collaborations

In addition to our Voter Service and Issue Team activities in the community, we have developed several collaborative relationships and are able to partner more often on events and advocacy. Some examples:

- Women's Collaborative of Boulder County (WoCoBoCo). This collaborative has matured over the last couple of years, and now includes 13 organizations. We reliably host 3 quality events per year: International Women's Day Celebration in March, a Legislative Preview in November, and a Legislative Wrap-up in May (will be later in the summer this year). One of the organizations, Zonta, honored us with a "Lights Up the Night" award in November, and several of the organizations were sponsors for our 100th Celebration.
- MOTUS Theater. Over the last couple of years, we have co-sponsored several of their performances, and they were a sponsor for our 100th celebration on March 1. Of particular note this year was the performance of "Women of Resolution" by 4 of LWVBC's members: Jeannette Hillery, Emma Piller, Kay Marsh, and Lauren Modery. They "walked in the shoes" of 4 women in sanctuary in Colorado during MLK Week at the Dairy Arts Center, as a part of MOTUS' "Shoebbox Stories" project.

- Longmont Living Wage Coalition. This coalition of 8 organizations and about 50 individuals successfully advocated on behalf of City of Longmont employees and contract workers. City Council approved in 2019, and it is being implemented in 2020. See also the Social Policy Team report.
- “Councilwoman” documentary. LWVBC collaborated with Colorado 50-50 and the Longmont Museum on this film screening and discussion in September. This led to a working relationship with Longmont Museum as a venue for future events.
- Boulder County Commissioners reached out to us about the issue of expanding the commissioners from 3 to 5, after we had advocated for the idea. The Voting Methods Team worked with Peggy on hosting 2 Community Conversations about Boulder County’s government structure, with cooperation and input from the County. There seemed to be community interest in the topic, but not a groundswell of support. See also Voting Methods Team report.
- One of last year’s Community Partner awardees (and now a member of LWVBC), Jeffrey Kash of Elevations Credit Union, dedicated a fundraiser to LWVBC. His performance as Eda Bagel is unforgettable, and his November event at Nissi’s raised over \$1,600 for our organization.
- 2020 Census and Non-Profit Complete Count Committee (see separate report).
- Rossana Longo (our former intern) and KGNU. Rossana is now a bilingual reporter at KGNU and produces “Trends Podcasts”. A recent podcast covered the Census effort in Boulder County, and it included interview material from Peggy.
- National Popular Vote (NPV) 2020 ballot issue (see separate report).

Internal Workings: Please see separate reports on the following:

- Major strategic planning effort.
- Consensus and new position on the rights of non-citizens. (See Social Policy Team and new Governance Position.)
- Virtual meetings and events because of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Celebration of the League’s 100th anniversary.

In addition to our celebration of the 100th anniversary, we received proclamations from the Colorado State Senate (courtesy of Senator Mike Foote) and from the Boulder County Commissioners, recognizing the League’s 100 years of serving women, the larger community and the nation by educating voters and protecting their rights, and our work in the defense of democracy.

We received a generous bequest (just over \$17,000) from the estate of Pat Johnson, a long-time member and supporter. The LWVBC’s recent status as a 501c3 makes bequests a good option for members. Several of us attended her memorial service, and we learned what an interesting life she had!

Mandy Nuku, our part-time employee, has been with us for more than 2 years now, and she is assuming more responsibility all the time. We have come to rely on her for all kinds of operational support, and her title has been changed to Operations Coordinator.

We would like to thank our board and all of our teams, committees, volunteers, donors, and members for your continued support of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County. We can't do this job without you!

Parliamentary Rules of Procedure:

Discussion

- To be recognized, enter a request in the Chat Box that you wish to be recognized. State your name when you are recognized to speak.
- To signify that you wish debate to come to a close, use the proper motion "I move the previous question" or "I move that debate cease on this question."
This motion requires a second and is not debatable.
- The chair immediately takes the vote (two-thirds required) on whether to stop debate. If the motion carries, debate ceases, and the vote is taken immediately on the main question. If the motion to close debate is defeated, debate on the main question continues.

Motions and Amendments

- Motions from a committee of more than one do not require a second.
The proper terminology for amending a motion is:
"I move to amend the motion by:
a. inserting or adding...
b. striking out...
c. striking out and inserting... or substituting..
 - Only two amendments may be pending at any one time. However, you may give notice that you will have another proposal (mentioning it) to offer if the amendment to the amendment is defeated.
 - If a motion or amendment is lengthy, please write it for the recorder.

Adoption of Program

- A program item may be amended, provided the intent is not changed or the scope enlarged.
- Non-recommended program items require a majority vote for consideration and a two-thirds vote for adoption.

FINANCIAL REVIEW for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19

League of Women Voters of Boulder County (LWVBC)

The Financial Review Committee has reviewed the record keeping of LWVBC which includes monthly revenue and expenditures reports, beginning and ending cash balances and the FY end bank statement/reconciliation

We find that the books are an accurate reflection of the financial condition of the LWVBC for the FY 2018-19 and of its operations and cash flows for that fiscal year. We commend the Treasurer for her commitment to accuracy, clarity, transparency and compliance with recommended best League and general accounting practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Brown

Net Worth end Mar 2020 - As of 3/31/2020

Account	3/31/2020 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
CD fall	3,123.87
ECU Savings	25.57
Endowment Fund	1,794.58
General Fund ECU	48,005.26
General Fund WF	0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	52,949.28
TOTAL ASSETS	52,949.28
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	52,949.28

Budget Preamble 2020

The LWVBC’s actual spending for last year, the current budget, and expenditures as of February 29, 2020, and the proposed budget for 2020-21 follow. The Budget Committee (Linda Katalenich-Chair, Susan Saunders, Anne Bryan and Pat Long), assisted by Co-President Peggy Leech, reviewed the current year budget and expenses, team funding requests, and strategic objectives to estimate next year’s income and expenses.

Our campaign to raise funds for 2 years of support for an administrative assistant has served us well. Enormous progress in the League’s visibility and service to Boulder County residents was made through the employment of the person and talents of Mandy Nuku. Recent grant applications have brought in a small amount of funding for this category of operational support but fall far short of projected need for additional years. A bequest received and a few large gifts have boosted the funds available to continue Mandy’s position, but not to the point of securing it entirely for another year.

Income expectations for the grocery card program have been scaled back due to the decline following King Sooper’s change in handling of their cards. While their new system is actually simpler – no reloading required – the one-time step to commit your card to the benefit of the LWVBC seems to have been ignored by many previous supporters. Keep your eyes peeled for instructions on our website. This is such a simple and cost-free way to support your League.

Finally, with the Corona virus unknowns in our future, we may see decreased funding because there are so many community needs. On the other hand, we may see more and more “virtual” events with less expense, but we are hopeful this will be a one-year impact factor and we seek your sustained commitment to support your League for years to come.

LWVBC 2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET (as of 3/23/20)								
Category					2018-2019 ACTUAL	2019-2020 BUDGET	YTD ACTUALS thru Feb 2020	2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET
INCOME					\$ 39,512	\$ 57,776	\$ 50,825	\$ 61,140
Contributions					\$ 14,859	\$ 24,500	\$ 24,117	\$ 30,440
	Members (incl pledge pmts)				\$ 14,426	\$ 24,000	\$ 23,479	\$ 29,440
	Non-members				\$ 433	\$ 500	\$ 638	\$ 1,000
Dues					\$ 12,529	\$ 13,376	\$ 13,524	\$ 15,700
Grants					\$ 4,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,550	\$ 8,000
Investment Income					\$ 99	\$ 100	\$ 67	\$ 100
	Bank Acc Interest				\$ 58	\$ 60	\$ 28	\$ 60
	Cert of Deposit Interest				\$ 41	\$ 40	\$ 39	\$ 40
Other Income					\$ 140	\$ 200	\$ 9	\$ -
Proceeds fm Activities					\$ 7,385	\$ 12,600	\$ 9,558	\$ 6,900
	Bulb Sales				\$ 858	\$ 600	\$ 876	\$ 900
	Duck Race				\$ 550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Grocery Cards				\$ 3,377	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,204	\$ 3,000
	Meetings				\$ 2,600	\$ 3,000	\$ 840	\$ 3,000
	Money Making Events				\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,638	\$ -

Category		2018-2019 ACTUAL	2019-2020 BUDGET	YTD ACTUALS thru Feb 2020	2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET
EXPENSES		\$ 44,156	\$ 60,131	\$ 43,594	\$ 61,140
Activities		\$ 9,937	\$ 9,955	\$ 5,831	\$ 11,400
Advocacy Materials		\$ 331	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 400
Education Costs		\$ 9,606	\$ 9,755	\$ 5,831	\$ 11,000
Events/Meetings		\$ 6,079	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,643	\$ 4,000
Filming		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -
Issue Teams		\$ 805	\$ 1,600	\$ 267	\$ 2,000
Voter Service		\$ 2,722	\$ 3,155	\$ 2,921	\$ 5,000
Community Engagement		\$ 4,936	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,796	\$ 6,400
Affiliate Organizations		\$ 25	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$ 200
Latino Engagement		\$ 1,325	\$ 1,000	\$ 290	\$ 2,500
Misc Strategic Plan		\$ 1,681	\$ 200	\$ 5,059	\$ 200
Networking/Public Relations		\$ 379	\$ 1,000	\$ 269	\$ 500
Youth Engagement & Intern		\$ 1,526	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,078	\$ 3,000
Delegate Expenses		\$ 2,230	\$ 7,200	\$ -	\$ 1,500
National		\$ 736	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ -
State		\$ 1,494	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Operating Costs		\$ 2,967	\$ 3,210	\$ 2,931	\$ 4,210
Bank Checks and Charges		\$ 55	\$ 40	\$ -	\$ 40

Liability Ins	\$ 600	\$ 650	\$ 630	\$ 700
Licenses and Taxes	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 10
PAYCHEX Fee	\$ 187	\$ -	\$ 590	\$ 850
PO Box Rent	\$ 82	\$ 85	\$ 92	\$ 100
Supplies & Stationery	\$ 381	\$ 500	\$ 94	\$ 150
Telephone	\$ 46	\$ 125	\$ 152	\$ 360
Website Expenses	\$ 1,616	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,358	\$ 2,000
Organizational Expenses	\$ 14,132	\$ 25,310	\$ 18,604	\$ 26,630
Part-time staff-Compensation	\$ 11,658	\$ 19,500	\$ 11,924	\$ 22,230
Part-time staff-Employer Tax Pmts	\$ 283	\$ -	\$ 912	\$ 1,700
Admin-Equip & Supplies	\$ 43	\$ 100	\$ 40	\$ 100
Annual Mtg Packets	\$ 78	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Fundraising expense	\$ 850	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,989	\$ 600
Membership Team Expenses	\$ 601	\$ 1,000	\$ 576	\$ 800
President	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 33	\$ 100
Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Technology Improvements	\$ 529	\$ 500	\$ 540	\$ 500
Training	\$ 90	\$ 2,000	\$ 590	\$ 500
Treasurer	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ -
Other Organizational Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PMP Assessments	\$ 9,750	\$ 9,256	\$ 9,360	\$ 10,700
National PMP	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,696	\$ 5,760	\$ 6,600
State PMP	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,560	\$ 3,600	\$ 4,100
To Be Reimbursed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Voter	\$ 204	\$ 200	\$ 72	\$ 300
Newsletter	\$ 204	\$ 200	\$ 72	\$ 300
Difference (revenue - expenses)	\$ (4,644)	\$ (2,355)	\$ 7,231	\$ -

Proposed changes to the LWVBC Bylaws – April 1, 2020

In support of the Strategic Planning goals for leadership inclusion and development, plus the desire and need to increase demographic diversity amongst us to be relevant to citizens today, the Board approved two suggested changes to the bylaws. These are suggestions for the creation of a path that will encourage those members who are younger and busier to have an active role in League governance. The Board submits the background and language changes below, for approval by the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

- The first change began with discussions in 2017 and were taken up again in 2019, being cleared with the National League in July of 2019. This would allow for the LWVBC President to be an ex officio member of the Nominating Committee. The new language changes one sentence by deleting 4 words and would read:

“ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 2. The President: The President, or a Co-President, shall preside at all ... The President or a Co-President, shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees. ~~except the Nominating Committee.~~ The President, or a Co-President, shall have such usual powers”

- The second change concerns individual members’ length of service on the Board. In November of 2019, the Board approved the implementation of term limits to encourage development of new leaders and their active participation in directing the League’s future. The new language adds one sentence:

“ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League elected by the general membership, at least six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors. At least three of the Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. *Individual Board members shall not serve more than three, consecutive, two-year terms.* The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.”

Issues for Action (formerly Program Planning) Planning
Mary Ann Wilner, Action/Advocacy leader

Meetings held: Feb. 6, Meadows Library, Boulder and Feb. 11, Lafayette Library

Total Attendance: 26 members. 12 members on Feb. 6; 16 members on Feb. 12 (two attended both meetings but voted only once).

National Level:

Those attending the planning meetings came to agreement on National program topics as follows:

a) Voter Representation/Electoral Systems (proposed concurrence on Voting Methods): Support only if language is changed from "Require the winner to receive a **majority** of the votes for executive and single seat offices" to "Implement alternatives to plurality voting that improve the election experience and more accurately represent voter preferences." Or a change that expresses the same sentiment would be acceptable.

Attendees also added a request: that Leagues receive the contact list for other Leagues well in advance of program planning so that the Leagues can be contacted to explain a position before materials are prepared for program planning.

b) Abolish the Electoral College: The Meadows library group opposes the Illinois LWV proposal to urge National LWV to make abolishing the Electoral College an Action Issue for 2020. The Lafayette library group was neutral, but opposed using a constitutional convention to change the Constitution should the League take the position of abolishing the Electoral College.

c) Both LWVBC groups support LWVUS's proposed focus of continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work for All.

State Level: Both LWVBC groups urge the Colorado LWV to oppose an upcoming 2020 ballot initiative to change the state constitution to say "only " citizens can vote in all elections instead of the current "every" citizen can vote in all elections.

Proposed changes to national, state or local positions:

There were no proposed changes to current state and national positions.

In the absence of a presentation of Anne Norwood's suggestion for a LWVBC study to move to district elections for the City of Boulder, no action was taken.

2020-2021 Action plans for LWVBC - Issue Team and Voter Services leaders explained the action foci for 2020-2021. Members present at both meetings accepted these. Volunteers signed up for the Issue Teams and the Voter Services team.

Position on Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County
(Adopted February 20, 2020)

The LWVBC supports the inclusion of certain noncitizens residing in Boulder County, in some of our local democratic processes, at the county, municipal, school district, and special district level.

First, the LWVBC supports voting rights, limited to the county and municipality where they reside, for noncitizens whose immigration status is one of these four:

- Legal permanent residents (green card holders)
- Immigrants granted asylum
- Noncitizens who have applied for citizenship or
- DACA recipients (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS holders (Temporary Protective Status).

Each immigration status carries a length of U.S. residency requirement, which meets or exceeds the state's residence requirements for voting. If these noncitizens also meet the state's age requirement, they should be eligible to vote in local candidate elections and on local ballot proposals with and without fiscal impact.

Second, we support allowing noncitizen residents who meet one of the four criteria above for voting in Boulder County, plus noncitizen residents with expired visas or no visa, to participate in the following additional ways: being appointed to boards and commissions; serving on non-Federal juries; and running for elected office.

We believe that neither working within the relevant jurisdiction's boundary nor holding a temporary visa are by themselves, sufficient grounds to give voting or participation rights to noncitizens in local elections.

History:

The LWVBC has studied noncitizen rights since 2013 and concluded that the U.S. immigration policies, as practiced, are failing to provide a clear, consistent, and fair path to citizenship, with the attendant privileges and responsibilities of participating in the democratic processes which provide individuals with representation in government.

Slate of Candidates for 2020 to 2021/22

With our desire and need to increase demographic diversity amongst us to be relevant to citizens today, the Board decided to create a path that will encourage those members who are younger and busier to have a role in League governance. Doing so will create better opportunities for more inclusion. As a result, we have a slate of candidates that reflects the beginnings of that shift, a slate which you will vote on at the annual meeting. Therefore, we place in nomination for election at the annual meeting the following:

Elected Officers:

Co-President, Community engagement	1-year term	2020 – 2021	Elizabeth Crowe
Co-President, Administration	1-year term	2020 – 2021	Gaythia Weis (starting Nov) Susan Saunders (until Nov)
Treasurer	2-year term	2020 – 2022	Pat Long

Elected Directors:

Action	2 nd yr of term	2019 – 2021	Sylvia Bernstein (starting Nov) Mary Ann Wilner (until Nov)
Membership Director	2-year term	2020 – 2022	Debby Vink
Voter Service	2 nd yr of term	2019 – 2021	VACANT

Elected Directors-at-Large: (3 positions) with specialties determined by individual and Board:

Position 1	2-year term	2020 – 2022	Shiquita Yarbrough
Position 2	2-year term	2020 – 2022	Carol Brown
Position 3	2-year term	2020 – 2022	Jackie Alderete Urena

Elected Nominating Committee:

Chair	1-year term	2020 – 2021	Carolyn Elliott
Members (2)	1-year term	2020 – 2021	Ruth Stemler, Denice Walker

Elected Officers Continuing

Board Secretary	2 nd yr of term	2019 – 2021	Molly Saunders
-----------------	----------------------------	-------------	----------------

Elected Directors Continuing

Fund Development	2 nd yr of term	2019 – 2021	Anne Bryan
------------------	----------------------------	-------------	------------

Serving off-board:

Communications Coordinator	1-year term	Jennifer Bales
Governance/Leadership/Planning Resource	1-year term	Caroline Himes
Youth Engagement Coordinator	1-year term	Denice Walker

Thanks for the diligent efforts of the Nominating Committee, Cindy Outlaw, Carol Brown, Debby Vink, Pat Long, Susan Saunders (ex-officio), Peggy Leech (ex-officio), and Carolyn Elliott (chair).

Officers, Directors and Team Leaders Annual Reports

Strategic Planning Annual Report 2020 Submitted by Susan Saunders

It's hard to summarize a whole year's effort to implement the final year of a 5-year plan and the development of the next 3-year plan, but that's what has occupied the Board for 2019-2020 and we are not finished. In the summer, serious effort went into conducting assessment sessions, which attracted 28 member participants, and conducting a survey which attracted 45 member responders. The responses provided a measure of how the LWVBC was making progress in achieving its goals of remaining relevant in the community and focusing on Making Democracy Work for All. The Strategic Planning Retreat in August then focused on efforts to maintain relevancy in our community and the active engagement of new and long-term members with an eye on improving our diversity and our service to more diverse populations.

September and the Fall Kick Off brought a new approach to member meetings by replacing presentations and instead including all attendees in the process of defining details of the Retreat goals and brainstorming ideas for action on those goals. Under the umbrella of Making Democracy Work for All, the goals for 2019 and 2020 are Census 2020, National Popular Vote, Election 2020, TABOR and Climate. Kick Off attendees self-selected a goal to discuss. Under each category, the group outlined activities for the LWVBC to undertake; time lines for the actions; larger and smaller tasks for members; and ways to spotlight the goal's relevance to and engagement of diverse communities.

Then it was truly Fall and the LWVBC did what it does best, focus on elections. The work of registering voters plus informing and turning out voters, ramped up due to the tremendous efforts of an enlarged and well-trained member and non-member group of volunteers. New approaches tried and improved set the tone for training in January and planning for hitting the ground running this Spring and Summer.

Throughout the months from July to March, DEI efforts included Latinx voter registration projects, expansion of Youth Council interactions, collaborations with the YWCA, the Citizens Climate Lobby, the NAACP of Boulder County, etc. All were well received, expanding the LWVBC's visibility and renewing our usefulness to Boulder County. February and March brought focus on the nominating process for new Board members and the initiation of a plan to restructure the Board of Directors to introduce At-Large members who can advise the LWVBC on approaches to improve diversity and inclusiveness in our programs.

Now it's April and the novel Corona virus appears to have thrown up a road block for all progress. However, the early adopters of advanced technology have brought the LWVBC new tools, which coupled with the can-do attitudes of our members, has allowed us to Zoom around the apparent barriers and move on with our goals.

LWVBC Communications Team Submitted by Elizabeth Crowe

The LWVBC Communications Team works to support our Voter Service and advocacy teams by creating and help disseminating important information, perspectives and action opportunities to our members, partners and the community at large. Our goal is to inform and inspire community members to utilize LWV resources, and fully engage in our democratic process,

Jennifer Bales ably continued to manage our VOTER newsletter, with quality content that helps keep members tapped into our LWVBC activities and priority issues. Deborah Hayes continued her role as “webmaster”, a critical role given the fast pace of web communications needs and demands on her time from all corners of our organization. Laura Coates continued to help as needed with email announcements, designing, queueing up and sending out information about LWVBC events and action alerts. Rossana Longo Better, former LWVBC Intern now working at KGNU, continued to highlight League activities and milestones on our local radio station.

We were pleased to have Honora Wolfe lend her graphic design talents to our Team, to help design our 100th Anniversary event logo and invitations. While not a formal member of our Team, Hannah Rain Crowe worked with our League to create the LWV Colorado “She Is Me” photojournalism project, also to help mark the 100th Anniversary year.

I want to thank all our Communications Team members and other contributors – including members from the Voter Service and Voting Methods teams, Membership leaders and others – for helping make sure our information is clear, concise, relevant and impacting. Special thanks to Mandy Nuku for her staff leadership and assistance in helping our Team functions, and for maintaining a solid social media and email presence for all that we do. At a time when the demands overwhelm our volunteer capacity, Mandy’s role continues to be critical for our whole organization.

COVID19 will pose communications challenges to us as we’ve never before experienced. However, I believe that our Team – as with other teams –will rise to the occasion in new and creative ways.

Advocacy and Action Team

Mary Ann Wilner, Director of the Advocacy and Action Team, has maintained communication with each of the Issue Team leaders throughout the year. She collects monthly summaries of each team’s advocacy efforts, outreach and education events, decisions and strategic plans. She has helped the team leaders enhance their leadership and increase their team membership. She organized a training event for team leaders in Fall 2019 to facilitate their use of support offered

by the Communication team. Early in 2020-2021 she will deliver a draft copy of a guide for Issue Team leaders to smooth the transition of incoming team leaders.

Voting Methods Team **Celeste Landry and Gaythia Weis**

Adopting better voting methods is the best way to defeat gerrymandering, eliminate the spoiler effect, attract better candidates and make every vote count. The current threats to democracy under the guise of the coronavirus should compel Leaguers to work yet harder to Make Democracy Work® for All.

The Voting Methods Team has spent the past 12 months working toward good language for a proposed concurrence on a “Voter Representation / Electoral Systems” position at the 2020 LWVUS convention. We would like to eliminate the “majority” requirement because any election with more than two candidates cannot guarantee a majority winner. We contacted the leaders of the concurrence effort with our concerns about a “majority” requirement more than a year ago, we led a caucus on the subject at the 2019 LWVCO convention, and we reached out to the LWVUS board this past fall. Our team also provides resources for Leagues both within CO and across the nation.

Meanwhile, we continue to assess how to improve elections, locally and nationally. We held two informational meetings with Michelle Krezek from the Boulder County Commissioners office to discuss an effort to increase the number of commissioners from 3 to 5 and provide information about the four statutory options for electing 5 commissioners (at-large, by district or a combination). We’ve explored the idea of proportional representation, in particular in a letter to the Broomfield City Council, in a presentation at the annual Electoral Reform Symposium, and with Congressman Joe Neguse, who recently signed on as a co-sponsor of the Fair Representation Act. When we weren’t doing our own interactive dessert elections this year, we’ve spoken at meetings of state and Denver election administrators, attended some RCV for CO meetings and hosted two separate voting methods guest speakers: CU math professor Jeanne Clelland and Center for Election Science Executive Director Aaron Hamlin.

We plan to hold team officer elections this summer or early fall. For more information about what we do, please check out our webpage at lwwbc.org > Teams at Work > Voting Methods.

Money in Politics Team **Carolyn Elliott, Money in Politics Team co-chairperson**

1. Public Policy

We set two new goals, since our previous three were fulfilled. These two goals focus on public policy insofar as we can influence voters.

Goal #1: To inform Boulder County voters about Colorado tax laws, legislation and initiatives in preparation for potential ballot issues.

Goal #2: To inform Boulder County voters about special interest money in politics in preparation for potential ballot issues.

Specifically, we are targeting voter education around Initiative 271 (on the 2020 State ballot, and will change State taxing rates to be more equitable), and keeping watch for any special interest money, including ALEC bills.

2. Organizational Partners

Last October 2019, we held a community conversation with Carol Hedges, president of Colorado Fiscal Institute, speaking about Referendum CC (would have reduced fiscal harms of TABOR), which unfortunately failed at the ballot box, likely because of false advertised information, and it was placed at the wrong time in the election cycle (presidential and gubernatorial election years bring out more voters).

We hope to work with Common Cause's northern organizer, Jennifer Parenti, with our two, new goals for 2020.

3. Community Conversations

Over the past year, we showed the PBS documentary, *Dark Money*, and the Bill Moyers documentary *ALEC*, both showings with great success of 25 to 30+ attendees and with lively discussion.

4. Changes in Leadership

As of March 2020, team member Mary Anne Davitt now serves as secretary and co-chairperson with Carolyn Elliott as the other co-chair.

5. New Members

We number 20 on our e-mail list, but four to six "regulars" who do the work. Nonetheless, we have lost some members whose schedules are too busy, yet, we've gained a few new members, one of whom is youngish to middle age!

6. Miscellaneous Items

We are changing our brochure to a series of fact sheets (the size of one panel in an 8 x 10 tri-fold) targeted for certain topics, like Initiative 271. We are also going to revise our posters to reflect better what money in politics is here in Boulder County and in Colorado, and what voters can do to prevent harm.

Social Policy Team

Angie Layton, Chair of Social Policy and Mary Ann Wilner, for sub-team on Living Wage.

The SPT worked diligently on a consensus to determine what rights non-citizens should be afforded in Boulder County. The reason this became an issue for the SPT is that several community groups and young people have been working on expanding rights to noncitizens living and contributing in our community.

The SPT took a year to research and evaluate other organizations and communities across the U.S. who have expanded rights to non-citizens. Based on that information the SPT crafted questions that addressed the potential community issues that may become ballot issues in the future in Boulder County. The SPT held several meetings to determine a consensus among the membership and after these meetings proposed a consensus position to the LWVBC Board which was modified and then approved.

The SPT is proud of the LWVBC in addressing this very topical and difficult issue and reaching a consensus. For more information about this, please refer to previous editions of the Voter.

The members who participated in the research, evaluation and consensus development include Liz Black, Jan Buchanan, Mickey Greenberg, Deborah Hayes, Angie Layton, Peggy Leech, Annie Lessem, Louisa Matthias, Denice Walker, Mary Ann Wilner and Louisa Young.

We have suspended our meetings until the current COVID crisis is over since technology meetings are not a viable option for our team members.

We have not determined what our next project will be as the team is interested in several different topics and we stopped meeting before agreeing on a decision. Members had expressed interest in work in transportation, community surveys on economic security issues like the Trends Report (published by the Community Foundation of Boulder County) and other topics such as food security, criminal justice and immigration in Boulder County communities,

The **Living Wage Sub-Team of the SPT** advocated from summer 2018 until September 2019 for wage raises for city and contract employees in the city of Longmont. The sitting City Council supported our recommendation to pay these employees \$17.42 per hour and passed the proposed legislation in September 2019 with a unanimous vote.

The Living Wage team included members from the AAUW of Longmont, the the Heart of Longmont Methodist Church, and other Longmont citizens, several who spoke at city council meetings in favor of the wage increase.

National Popular Vote Team Report Peggy Leech, Co-Chair of NPV team

- “Team” is a little nebulous, and there is a lot of overlap between groups. I have an email list of about 20 people in Boulder County who were interested in NPV and have received occasional updates. This group was active during the period when the bill was going through the Colorado legislature in early 2019, and our group members testified, wrote LTEs, etc. The bill passed, but petitioners got it on the 2020 ballot. So now we have a year-long effort to get this passed again, but we need to educate voters about the issue.
- There is also a group of local Leagues around the state, headed up by Linda Sorauf and Sylvia Bernstein, which meets by Zoom conference most months, at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. This group coordinates with LWVCO, Yes on NPV, and Coloradans for National Popular Vote.
- LWVBC hosted a Drinks and Dialogue with Senator Mike Foote at the St Vrain Cidery on November 12, and it was well-attended. There were people on both sides of the issue, and a respectful discussion was held.
- LWVBC will be hosting a webinar on April 23, showing the new documentary “Winner Take All”, followed by remarks from Senator Foote and a Q&A session.
- Holly Monkman recently volunteered to be co-leader of this group, although she may be traveling in the fall and unavailable during the election season.
- Senator Foote, Linda Sorauf, and Sylvia Bernstein were honored at last year’s Annual Meeting for their efforts in getting the NPV bill through the legislature.

2020 Census Team Report
Peggy Leech, Chair of Census team

In early summer 2019, I attended a Complete Count Committee (CCC) meeting for the City of Boulder. At that time, we discovered that there was not a county-wide CCC. Cherry Anderson (NAACP) and I were quite concerned, and we worked with Julie Frieder (U.S. Census Partnership Specialist) and several others to form a county-wide non-profit CCC.

We now have 4 CCCs in Boulder County: City of Boulder, City of Longmont, CU, and the non-profit group. The Boulder County Commissioners provided resources, and Boulder County acts as an umbrella organization. I represent the non-profit CCC at biweekly leadership meetings, where all of the efforts are coordinated.

The non-profit CCC formed a Steering Committee, which organized a Marketing Outreach event at the Museum of Boulder in September and a “Train the Trainer” event in Longmont in February. We got many non-profits involved in both events. The first event produced a county logo for the Census, and the second event featured famous labor organizer Dolores Huerta. Several LWVBC members participated in both events.

The VRD team collected some Census pledge cards at the Latinx Festival in August 2019 and passed out information at various VRDs in early 2020. We were about to start organizing Questionnaire Assistance events, where we could use LWVBC volunteers, but the COVID-19 pandemic became a crisis just as the Census efforts were officially beginning on March 12. The Census effort has now pivoted to virtual communications, with field operations delayed until it is safe.

Julie Frieder, from the Census Department, will be one of our Community Partner awardees at this year’s Annual Meeting.

Schools Team
Linda Hultman

The Schools Team meets intermittently such as prior to an election with school finance ballot initiatives and when educating the community about important STVSD and BVSD concerns. We had a good meeting in early February before the Covid crisis and made a lot of plans, all of which are now on hold. The Harvard Case study presentation on the ERA is still on for July 2, 2020 at the Crescent Grange in Broomfield. The presenter will be Rebecca De Maio, a World History teacher at Broomfield High, nominated by LWVBC to participate in a Boston training last summer sponsored by LWVUSA for teachers to learn the Harvard Case Study method to teach civics and political history. When school resumes, the Schools committee will collaborate with Membership to support LWVBC groups in local high schools.

Fund Development Report

Anne Bryan

The committee was chaired by Anne Bryan and members were Lois Linsky, Louisa Young (past Board representative for Fund Development), Susan Saunders and Peggy Leech. Peggy kept a sharp eye on costs and revenues from our activities and Susan provided her ever-helpful long-term, thoughtful ideas. Mandy Nuku has participated actively and always provided information and ideas needed to keep things running smoothly.

Fund Development activities for 2019-20 included new directions: the establishment of an endowment fund and the decision to house it at Longmont Community Foundation, and the recognition of the LWV 100th anniversary by hosting a celebratory event on a larger scale than has been done in the recent past.

Pledges toward the “Building a Foundation” campaign were completed during the year. This campaign covered our administrative costs for the last two years. Typical net contributions after paying our state and national PMPs are about \$4,200, so we will need to continue conversations with members interested in committing to gifts or pledges during the 2020-21 fiscal year. Some new pledges and outright gifts were received before Dec. 31, 2019. LWVBC again received grants from the Boulder Community Foundation (\$3,250) and the Longmont Community Foundation (\$1,200). This has been essential to our voter education and outreach efforts, partly by providing support to our operations management. Mandy Nuku managed the writing and submission of our grant requests.

Bulb sales resulted in proceeds of over \$800, higher than projected. Thanks to Lois Linsky and all the members who help spread the word about bulbs! LWVBC chose not to participate in the Duck Race. Grocery cards, though still a part of the fund development spectrum, did not meet fundraising goals, with an average quarterly return of only \$400. Patricia Long, Treasurer, has applied to Colorado Gives, as we have reached the necessary net worth to participate. We are also applying to the Amazon Smile program and will provide information in the Voter if we are accepted as participants.

The Fund Development team focused from September forward on plans for the 100th Anniversary celebration held on March 1, 2020. Louisa Young and Lois Linsky were co-chairs of the event. We are happy to report that our 100th Anniversary event was a success, with approximately 90 attendees, over \$2,000 raised during the event, and a total net (one or two small donations are still outstanding) income of \$5,762.78 to date.

Attendees felt that the catering was excellent, the venue was lovely, and the performer, Susan Marie Frontczak, was a marvelous Eleanor Roosevelt. The successful outcome was partly due to great efforts by the entire committee, who *called every single member* to remind them to *rsvp*, as well as by Elizabeth Crowe with marketing and program assistance and Mandy Nuku with every kind of competent support and organization. There was a good mix of ages and a general feeling of goodwill, with time for members to engage, reminders of past achievements and highlights of the many outreach activities the future is bringing.

Membership Report

Debby Vink

This year's Membership Team is currently comprised of Debby Vink, Cindy Outlaw, Judy White, Mary Anne Davitt and Florence Fetterer, with help from Kay Forsythe and Mickey Greenberg. Thanks to others who pitched in to help when needed!

As I write this report today, we have 263 active members, a 14% increase or 37 members over last year's 226 members. Since 2015, when our organization became more visible in the community, LWVBC has experienced a 37% increase in membership!

Accomplishments:

- Three Member Meetings for 2018 - 19: Fall Kick-Off, Holiday Party and the Annual Meeting
- Three member coffees to give social and educational opportunities to our members and potential members. Eight individual coffees to orient new members.
- Membership Information and sign-in tables on 31 occasions, including Community Conversations, Drinks and Dialogues, Candidate Forums, Ballot Presentations, and other partner and internal events. Membership prepared a constantly updated print-out of coming LWVBC events to hand out at these events.
- Debby, Cindy and Judy have worked behind the scenes to help members manage their membership on our website. They maintain a division of tasks that keeps all member records current, locally and nationally, keeps the nonmember database up to date. They also adjusted the member information collected on lwvbc.org to include fluency in Spanish; request for rides, childcare and handicap assistance for events; and added new current action items to interests. Judy posts a printable *Member Contact List* quarterly at lwvbc.org under *Member Info*.
- Welcome emails are sent to new members, and reminder contacts to members for renewals.
- The Team now circulates the main member recruitment handouts in Spanish, as well as English.
- Mary Anne is revising and updating our *LWVBC Member Handbook*.
- Florence is managing the printed copies of our newsletter that go to those who don't use the internet with the help of Mickey and Kay.
- Debby and Judy help maintain event attendance data.
- Student Membership increased 35% from 11 to 17, along with increased involvement by our student members. Membership looks forward to working with the Youth Engagement and Voter Service Youth Coordinators to grow the number and involvement of student members and to revive the dormant Niwot Student LWVBC Club. To encourage our student membership, LWVBC established a \$500 LWVBC Scholarship to be awarded for post-secondary tuition annually to one active student member who has been a member for a year or more.
- Cindy and Debby served on the Nominating Committee which used our generated reports on member interests, skills and involvement to fill the slate for 2020-21.
- Debby chaired the Awards Committee of Jennifer Bales, Rionda Osman and Louisa Matthias which reviewed nominations and selected recipients for annual awards. Judy prepares the award certificates for longevity and annual awards.
- Debby has been a resource to LWVCO, LWVUS and some individual leagues in the U.S. on the use of Club Express for managing membership.

Voter Service

Jeanine Pow

Looking back. Between April 2019 and March 2020, the LWVBC Voter Service Team conducted: 32 voter registration drives (8 VRDs had to be canceled due to inclement weather or coronavirus concerns), 7 candidate forums and 13 ballot issue presentations. According to LWVCO VOTE411 data, between 2017 and 2019, there was a 257% increase in VOTE411 usage. In Boulder County, the number of users visiting the VOTE411 website increased by 1,646 hits between 2017 and 2019. About 4% of those voting in the statewide 2019 Colorado election used the VOTE411 website. Secretary of State Griswold reports that, in the March 3, 2020 presidential primary, Colorado had the highest voter turnout of any primary in the U.S. Boulder County's voter turnout was 56.35%, one of the highest in the state.

Looking forward. Within the span of one month, the coronavirus has spread across the U.S. and changed life as we know it. For the unforeseeable future, Colorado Public Health Orders require that we stay at home and maintain social distancing when conducting essential activities. Consequently, traditional candidate forums, ballot issue presentations and VRDs are out of the question. Instead, we must regroup and, refocusing the structure already in place, change with the changed world. To that end, all future LWVBC candidate forums will be live streamed. Citizens will be encouraged to pose candidate questions in advance by email and to view the forums on their home computers.

In 2020, we must redouble our efforts in educating the public on the usefulness of VOTE411 as one stop shopping for voter registration, checking voter registration status and, based on one's address, learning about the candidates, candidate forums and issues on the ballot. The bottom line is that we must be flexible and open to change in order to meet the challenge of a changed world. Over 90 LWVBC Voter Service volunteers will be working to make that happen. Will you join us?

BOARD MEMBER AND LEADER PROFILES

Get to know your officers!



Jackie Alderete Urena, Director at Large

My name is Jackie; I am both a student majoring in Political Science at Metro State University and a bilingual paralegal for the Saltrese Law Firm. I work closely with people of all backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures, I take pride in providing support and helping serve the migrant community. I'm an active volunteer for RMIAN, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping immigrants at the Aurora detention center. I joined the league in the summer of 2019 because I believe we all share the same responsibility to participate in government, make our voices heard and advocate for equality.



Sylvia Bernstein, Action Director

Sylvia Bernstein is the Colorado Coalition Coordinator for the Yes on National Popular Vote campaign, and the Co-Chair of the Coloradans for National Popular Vote grassroots issue committee. Prior to being involved with the National Popular Vote, Sylvia ran the major fundraising benefit for the Boulder County Democratic party and was very active in the GOTV drive for the 2018 midterm election. She is recently retired from starting and running a business with her husband that supplied products to Aquaponic Gardeners in the United States, and is the author of the best-selling book "Aquaponic Gardening: Growing Fish and Vegetables Together". Prior to that she was the Vice President of Marketing and Product Development for AeroGrow International. She is currently on the board of the Democratic Women of Boulder County, and a volunteer and board member of Meals on Wheels of Boulder County.

Sylvia values the League because of the intelligent, strong, energetic women she has gotten to know through the National Popular Vote campaign, who are making a real difference in Boulder County and throughout Colorado.



Carol Brown, Director at Large

I came to Boulder to go to school and never left. After getting a degree in Environmental Biology I worked for many years as a computer programmer. I then changed careers and became a medical coder - finally able to use some of my biology training. In the meantime, my husband and I established a home in Lafayette and raised a son. Since retirement, my husband Michael and I have been traveling in our tiny trailer. I fulfilled a lifetime ambition of getting a floor loom and becoming an amateur weaver. I chose to join the League because I believe voting is a fundamental right that must be fought for.



Anne Bryan, Fund Development Director

I am a Colorado native, with degrees in literature and business from the Claremont Colleges. I began my career in management for a large family-owned agribusiness, later moving to a Seattle-based software development company. It was while working on my MBA that I became involved in the non-profit world.

Returning to Colorado, which I can never stay away from for long, I spent several years with the Women’s Foundation of Colorado as Director of Development, helping to build the endowment to \$10 million. I then was Director of Development for the Graduate School of Social Work at DU and for Montana State University’s College of Letters and Science.

I became involved in the LWVBC after moving to Longmont with my husband Bill in 2017 (one of Ruth Stemler’s recruits!) and I have greatly appreciated the engaged, informed and committed members of the League I’ve gotten to know.

I love the Rocky Mountain outdoors, gardening and animals, especially my fuzzy gray Bouvier, Reginald.



Elizabeth Crowe, CO-Board President

Elizabeth Crowe is the Human Services Investments Manager for the City of Boulder. She manages the city's Health Equity Fund, Human Services Fund, and Substance Education and Awareness (SEA) Fund. She also is one of the city’s Racial Equity trainers.

Prior to working at the City, Elizabeth worked as a non-profit environmental health and justice organizer, collaborator and director at the local, state, national and international levels. While serving as Director of the Kentucky Environmental Foundation and Co-Director of Coming Clean, she helped secure safe clean-up of chemical weapons and other military toxics; transition from harmful coal-burning to clean energy; toxic-free foods and products; chemical safety at refineries and chemical manufacturing facilities; and other clean air and water quality and climate issues. Her other Board positions include current Board Chair of GAIA, an international, grassroots zero waste network; past Board member and Chair of the Appalachian Community Fund; past member and Chair of the Livingston Economic Alternatives in Progress; and past elected member of the Berea Community School Board of Education.

Elizabeth's journey with the League of Women Voters began around 2005, when she began serving as a candidate forum moderator for the LWV of Berea and Madison County, Kentucky. She became a Board member and then President of the local League and helped with policy advocacy at the LWV of Kentucky levels. She became a member of LWV of Boulder County when she moved here in 2014. More recently Elizabeth has been a Board member and Communications Director for the League of Women Voters of Boulder County.

In addition to her work with League, she is an active Giving Project member alum with the Chinook Fund; and volunteer with Motus Theater. She lives in the Sugarloaf community in Boulder County with her partner Robert and two dogs and enjoys having her 20-something daughter Hannah Rain living close by in Denver.



Pat Long, Treasurer

Professionally morphed from an intelligence analyst for Japan and the Koreas into an 8th grade science and special education teacher. Retired and moved to Colorado in 2015. Growing up and living in Asia, I came to understand how unique and important our Constitutional and civil freedoms are. The League is committed to protecting those rights and freedoms for everyone.



Molly Saunders, Board Secretary

I am currently a physical therapist practicing in Boulder, living in Longmont. I was lucky to be born and raised in Boulder, went through school at Reed College in Oregon where I played Rugby and got a degree in economics which I promptly didn't use as I traveled and rethought my career and life goals. After moving to New York City in 2010, I attended Hunter College for my doctorate in physical therapy and lived and worked there until returning home to Colorado a few years ago. I was a member of the League of Women Voters in New York and transferred my membership on returning to Boulder. I am currently serving as the secretary to the Board of Directors and loving being in a room filled with great minds, motivated and dedicated to support and build our democracy. In a year like this one, with all that we have gone through already as a nation and as a world I become increasingly convinced of the critical role LWV plays and could not be more excited to contribute to our essential work.



Debby Vink, Membership Director

My 16 years of League membership include active membership in New Jersey and Nebraska Leagues. I served as Membership Director for LWVBC this past year and have served on the LWVBC Membership Team for the past four years. I've been employed as an operations manager for The Nature Conservancy of Colorado, as a legal secretary, and a teacher at the secondary and college levels. I welcome that retirement has enabled me to devote more time to "making democracy work for all"!



Gaythia Weis, CO-President

I am a Retired Analytical Chemist with an MS degree from Chemistry Colorado State University, previously working in industrial quality assurance and as the business manager of a small software startup. My husband and I have lived in Colorado most of the last 40 years, moving away but always returning. We have two daughters, both engineers.

I am currently co-President of the Voting Methods group, (along with Celeste Landry), which is advocating for improved alternatives to our current plurality voting system using better voting methods that would be more expressive of voter preferences. This year, I am also a participant with the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee.

Now, more than ever before in my lifetime, the non-partisan role of the League of Women voters, to defend democracy and empower voters, is vital to the wellbeing of our nation. I hope that by helping to facilitate the operations of LWVBC as administrative Co-President I can contribute to the success of the League in meeting its goals.



Shiquita Yarbrough, Director at Large

I work for the YWCA Boulder County as Manager of Community Engagement & Equity. On the board of the League of Women Voter Boulder County, Boulder County Leadership Fellow, Co-Founder of Families of Color Colorado, on the Housing Human Services Advisory Board.

Off Board Leaders



Jennifer Bales, Communications Team Leader

Jennifer Bales was born in Boulder but lived in Los Angeles for nine years while going to engineering school and working in aerospace. She returned to Boulder for law school and is now a patent attorney. She is married with two daughters. For the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, she edits the newsletter, *The Voter*, and will be taking over as Communications Team Leader this winter.



Carolyn Elliott, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Talking with members to solicit their willingness to serve in various League positions actually gives me pleasure! Every year, from January to March, a team of us sort through the membership list, looking at people's talents to match with an assortment of vacancies. Then we contact the identified individuals to see if they are willing and able to serve in that position. A feeling of satisfaction fills me when the person says, "Yes!" We can see the slate of capable and willing candidates come together. This coming year will be my fourth year of fulfilling this rewarding position. Thank you all so much for your confidence in me, and I will do my best with the talented team members, who are always a pleasure to work with.



Caroline Himes, Leadership and Governance

Caroline has been a member of the LWV since just after arriving in Boulder in 1992. Prior to Boulder, she lived in Columbus, Atlanta, Alexandria, and Dallas. At one point in her distant past, she was controller for John Glenn's Presidential campaign and learned all the details of campaign financing and reporting. In Boulder, she has worked in the private sector and at the university and is now happily retired.



Denice Walker, Youth Engagement

My involvement with the League has been entirely with the LWVBC’s Social Policy Team. I was introduced to the Social Policy Team by long-term member Jan Buchanan after she and I had the opportunity to share our interests in politics and policy issues. She invited me to attend a meeting and shortly after I decided to become a member. I have served as a co-chair of the SPT with Annie Lessem and, just prior to the Covid outbreak, took on the role of Youth Engagement Coordinator. Even more recently, I’ve put my name in as a nominee to the Nominating Committee for LWVBC to serve for 2020-2021. My professional background includes work as a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is what brought me to Colorado from California. That was followed by teaching at CU Boulder, first as a graduate student (yes, I take “life long learner” to heart!), and then as an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies and in the Department of Women and Gender Studies. More recently I served as a legislative aide during the 2019 legislative session at the Capitol and, prior to the outbreak, had been crafting what I call “Career 4.0,” as a community activist.

STAFF



Mandy Nuku, Operations Coordinator

Mandy has worked with LWVBC for two years now. Mandy has worked in the non-profit sector for most of her career and served in various volunteer roles in local government. Mandy has her Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from CU Boulder and Master of Arts in Politics and Public Policy from CU Denver. Mandy was a participant in the Center for New Directions Local government training while a graduate student. She is married to her husband Elike and has three children in Lafayette, CO. In addition to her work with the League, she is a Personal Trainer and Strength and Conditioning Coach. Mandy is a volunteer on the Boulder Valley School District Parent Council and with several racial justice organizations. Mandy is an amateur triathlete, dedicated soccer mom and loves to cook and travel with her family. Mandy greatly values the work the league does to protect democracy and give every person the right, confidence and knowledge to participate in government.



Erin Lindblom, Intern

I’m a sophomore at the University of Colorado at Boulder. I am majoring in Journalism and minoring in Spanish and Political Science and pursuing a certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies. I am originally from Littleton, Colorado which is just south of Denver. I am currently living in Boulder with Vinny, my 7 month old puppy. I enjoy painting, reading, binge watching netflix, and most recently teaching myself the guitar.

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

Minutes of the May 11, 2019 Annual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

League of Women Voters of Boulder County (LWVBC) President, Peggy Leech, called the meeting to order at 9 am. She determined that a quorum was present (10% of the members = 23 individuals) so the meeting could proceed.

BUSINESS MEETING

Forward

Peggy welcomed visitors and explained that only LWVBC members could vote. She explained that the morning would be divided into: Internal business meeting from 9 - 10, breakfast buffet from 10 - 10:30, and speakers and awards from 10:30 -11:30. She will also split her President's report accordingly.

President's Report – 1st section

- Peggy encouraged the reading of the Directors' and Team Leaders' reports in the Annual Meeting Packet.
- She thanked board members and team leaders for their work in ensuring our league is finding a path to the future and building greater civic participation.
- She announced that we now have 227 members.
- She said all LWVBC members should be proud of our accomplishments over the last 4-5 years, citing an article from Toni Larson.
- She announced the following internal board function changes:
 1. The Presidency will be split into co-Presidents – one to handle community engagement and one to handle administrative functions.
 2. Mandy Nuku will attend board meetings as a liaison for all of her administrative assistant duties and will be paid as an employee instead of an independent contractor.
 3. The Board has continued working with the issue Teams and improving free student memberships.
- Peggy enumerated the following accomplishments in 2018-19:
 1. We obtained grants from Boulder Community Foundation, Boulder County Bar Association and the Longmont Community Foundation.
 2. We implemented a Major Gifts' program and received our first payments toward an endowment fund.
 3. Shiquita Yarbrough has been chosen by the National League to be a Shur Fellow.

4. Several members participated in state level task forces.
 5. Ruth Stemler has been nominated as President for the state League and Rionda Osman has been nominated as Director of Technology on the state Board.
 6. We have collaborated on candidate forums and other events, and with the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee, NAACP, Motus Theatre, Zonta, YWCA, Families of Color and others.
- What is needed in the future?
 1. Find ways to fund our Administrative Assistant beyond another year.
 2. Conduct an assessment of our strengths and weaknesses by hiring a consultant.
 - a. Members will be invited to participate in telephone interviews, survey or focus groups.
 - b. Sign-up sheets for participation in a focus group were on each table.

Further Business

Procedures

Peggy introduced Louisa Young, parliamentarian for the meeting. The rules of procedure as printed in the annual meeting packet were adopted with no objections.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, as printed in the packet, was adopted with no objections.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

Peggy announced that the minutes of the 2018 annual meeting, submitted by Annie Lessem were reviewed and approved by Pat and Frank Venturo.

It was noted that due to the absence of both the current secretary and nominated future secretary, Pat Venturo will be recording this meeting and submitting minutes. Jo Porter and Frank Venturo will review and approve.

Financial Business

- Pat Long's treasurer's report, published in the April 1 Voter, and her 3/31/19 net worth statement, printed in the packet, were approved without questions or objections.
- Susan Saunders gave the rationale and moved adoption of the following dues increases:
 1. Individual, basic: from \$66 to \$76
 2. Individual, sustaining: from \$126 to \$136
 3. Student: from \$0 to \$0
 4. Household: from \$99 to \$114
 5. Household, sustaining: from \$219 to \$234
- Susan gave the rationale for the increases in the 2019-20 budget proposal and moved for its adoption. Louisa Young proposed an amendment which would move the \$500 allocated to the duck race from the fundraiser expenses category into member contributions income category. The amendment passed without discussion. Peggy then called for a vote on both motions, which passed with no further discussion.

Bylaws change

Susan Saunders moved to adopt a revision to Article VI, Financial Administration, Section 2 Dues, paragraph d, of the Bylaws regarding student dues. The following revision was passed by the assembly: *Except when suspended at National, State or Local levels, student dues equal one half the regular members' rate. When student dues are suspended, volunteer service hours may be encouraged.*

Action and Advocacy

Mary Ann Wilner, Action and Advocacy director, proposed three motions for consideration:

- That LWVBC proceeds to consensus on non-citizen rights in Boulder County. The rationale was explained in the meeting packet. After a brief discussion, this motion was passed.
- That LWVBC revises its position on Boulder County Government Structure to recommend another option for electing County Commissioners including Proportional Representation. Louisa Young made a friendly amendment to change the proposed revision to read: *The League supports increasing the number of commissioners from three to five. Until Boulder County has the option to elect commissioners using a method which promotes proportional representation, the League supports three commissioners elected from districts and two elected at large.* After more clarification from Celeste Landry of the Voting Method’s Team, the amendment was voted on and passed. The amended motion was passed.
- That LWVBC retains all of its other positions. This motion was passed.

Election of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee Members

Carolyn Elliott presented the Nominating Committee’s report. The nominating committee (composed of chair Carolyn Elliott, Debby Vink, Pat Long and Susan Saunders), noting the new decision to have co-presidents, recommended the following slate of Officers and Directors:

- Co-President, Community Engagement Peggy Leech
- Co-President, Administrative Susan Saunders
- Secretary Molly Saunders
- Action Director Mary Ann Wilner
- Fund Development Director Anne Bryan
- Voter Service Director Jeanine Pow
- Membership Director Debby Vink

The nominating committee nominees for 2019 -2020 are Carolyn Elliott, chair, Cindy Outlaw and Carol Brown.

Peggy Leech then asked for any nominations from the floor for the board of directors and the nominating committee. Seeing as there were none, and as there was only one person nominated for each position, Peggy asked for a motion directing the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as read. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

Recognition of Continuing and Retiring Board Members

- Peggy recognized the continuing Board members: Treasurer, Pat Long; Communications Director, Elizabeth Crowe and Youth Engagement Director, Shiquita Yarbrough.
- She announced that Caroline Himes is going off-board for the 2nd year of her term but will assist in Governance/Leadership/Planning when needed.
- She also noted that Mandy Nuku will attend board meetings, but as our paid employee, she will not be a voting member of the board. She will act as an advisor and liaison for DEI, Communications, and Events.
- Peggy thanked all of the other members working behind the scenes in many areas.

- Peggy then recognized League life member, Louisa Young, who is retiring as Fund Development Director, but has served on the board since 2010 in several different capacities.
- Peggy also recognized Ruth Stemler, the current Membership Director, who is leaving the LWVBC board since she has been nominated to be President of the state League, where she is presently the 1st Vice President for Program.

Member Direction to the Board

There were no directions from the members.

After a few announcements, Peggy recessed the meeting at 10:00 for the members to enjoy a breakfast buffet.

The meeting resumed at 10:30 with the second part of the President’s remarks.

President’s Report – 2nd section

Peggy focused on community activities in this section of her report. She noted the following items:

- This past year several organizations asked for our League to co-sponsor candidate forums and other events. Among them was the CD-4 debate, (the only debate that Congressman Buck agreed to do) one on Central American immigrants and several with Motus Theatre.
- A large group of Boulder County Leaguers had participated with the LAC in the legislature.
- She recognized student member, Genesis Kebede, who has organized an LWV club at Niwot High School. Peggy, Debby Vink and Ruth Stemler had accompanied this group to a “Day at the Capitol.”
- LWVBC actively supported Amendments Y and Z and the National Popular Vote Compact.
- Our League has been engaged in a living wage effort in Longmont and formed a coalition in which 8 organizations and 50 individuals have signed-on in support.
- We are also advocating for increasing the number of Boulder County Commissioners from 3 to 5.
- She praised the substantial increase in Voter Registration Drives.

Guest Speaker

Peggy introduced Beth Hendrix, the state League’s new Executive Director. Beth opened her speech by congratulating us on being an inspirational group. She then noted that LWVCO is making lots of changes. They are working on modernizing their approaches across the board in all areas -administration, action/advocacy and local league support to ensure the league’s voice is strong, relevant and heard. They want to support the unique individuality of each local league while offering them the empowerment to increase coordination especially in communication and technology. They plan to use technology to increase communications, to increase diversity in the LAC and on the board of directors in order to reach Leagues in all corners of the state. In addition, they are Increasing partnerships with diverse organizations. More money will be budgeted to fund these efforts. Beth’s personal goal is to grow the Colorado League membership to include 1% of the entire state’s population which would be 58000 people!

Beth noted that in this year’s legislature, 598 bills were introduced and all but 136 were passed. Of those that failed, 61 were only Republican sponsored, 35 were only Democrat sponsored. This means that 70%

of the bills that failed were partisan. This should be a good case for cooperation – which is a central theme to League. She emphasized that the League is very relevant, even to History Day middle schoolers, but we still have work to do. Beth’s enthusiasm will certainly help us get this work done.

External Awards

Four awards were presented as follows:

- *Community Partner Awards*
Jeffrey Kash – Elevations Credit Union
Linda Sorauf (absent) & Sylvia Bernstein – for work on Colorado NPV Compact
Faith Gowan – Awarded for her Artistic post card contribution
- *Elected Official Award* – State Senator, Mike Foote

Internal Awards

The following members for 2018 were honored:

- Susan Saunders – *Board Member of the Year Award*
- Carolyn Elliott – *Issue Team Leader Award*
- Rionda Osman – *Member of the Year Award*
- Holly Monkman – *Member of the Year Award*
- Jennifer Bales – *Emerging Leader of the Year Award*
- Anne Bryan – *Emerging Leader of the Year Award*
- Genesis Kebede – *Emerging Youth Leader of the Year Award*
- Louisa Matthias – *Issue Team Member Award*
- Cindy Outlaw and Judy White – *Operational Team Member Awards*

Special Gift Award

Susan Saunders presented a special gift to Peggy Leech to thank her for her hard work and to encourage her to take some well-deserved relaxation.

ADJOURNMENT

Peggy encouraged everyone to check the LWVBC website frequently to take note of all of the upcoming events. After wishing all of the mothers in the room a Happy Mother’s Day on Sunday, she adjourned the 2019 LWVBC Annual Meeting at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Venturo