

# The Boulder County Voter



*League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* June 2018*

## LWVBC Offers Free League Membership for Students

*by Ruth Stemler, Membership Director*

We have an exciting pilot program to announce, and we hope it will help us become a more multi-generational, multi-cultural organization. LWVBC will offer free student memberships. The objective of this program is to encourage Millennials and Generation Xer's to become active, engaged members of the League.

A student is defined as an individual registered in a Colorado academic institution (high-school, community college, college/graduate program, certificate program). The national and state offices of the League have waived all student membership fees. LWVBC is asking that the student volunteer 20 hours per year in exchange for the free membership.

YOU can help us recruit younger members. Invite the students you know, to join League! The student simply needs to go online, [www.lwvbc.org](http://www.lwvbc.org), and join. Send Ruth an email if you would like to be a "buddy" to a student. As more details of the program develop we will keep you informed in the Voter.

For inquiries about student memberships, please contact Membership Director Ruth Stemler at [rjstemler@gmail.com](mailto:rjstemler@gmail.com).

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



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Crowe:  
[crowe.elizabethann@gmail.com](mailto:crowe.elizabethann@gmail.com)



**Still planning to order flower bulbs to raise money for LWVBC? The order deadline is Monday, June 4. Download the [Bulb Order Form](#) and mail the form with your check to PO Box 21562, Boulder, CO 80308.**

### June Events Calendar

***June 3: RBG Movie Screening***  
***June 4: "Fix It" Healthcare Film Screening***  
***June 5: District Attorney Candidate Forum***  
***June 6: Campaign Finance Reform Mtg***  
***June 9: Immigration Forum***  
***June 28: "Do You Know Who I Am" Event***

***See page 3 for Voter Registration Drive dates and locations!***

## President's Letter By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

Please mark your calendars for Saturday morning, July 7, to attend our Post-Convention Coffee. This will be held from 10:00-11:30, at the Wesley Foundation near Folsom Stadium. We will hear from our delegates to LWVCO Council in early June, and our delegation to LWVUS Convention in late June. At the LWVCO Council, our own Ruth Stemler is being nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Program, at the state level. And at the LWVUS Convention, our Voting Methods Team will be conducting a caucus on single-winner voting methods. We have much to be proud of in our League!



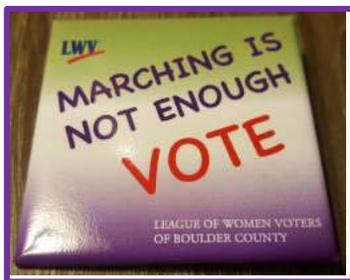
Peggy Leech with Jeff Hirota and Elvira Ramos (Comm Foundation of Boulder Co.), Erika Blum and Victor Galvan (CIRC), Stan Garnett, and Maria Urbina.

At our Annual Meeting on May 12, I thanked our members for the support we continue to receive.

You should all be proud of what we have accomplished over the last 3-4 years, even though it involved a lot of changes, and change is not always comfortable. The main goal in our Strategic Plan has been “Greater community engagement w/LWVBC and greater LWVBC engagement in the community”. I noted that we are being asked more and more to collaborate with other groups on events, films, and candidate forums, as our visibility has increased. This, to me, means that we are making great progress on our main goal!

I did a rough count of our activities over the fiscal year (July 2017-June 2018), and found about 70 total, with events, member meetings, forums, and voter registration drives. Of those, 27 were in Boulder, 20 in Longmont, and 20 in Louisville/Lafayette. And, of the 70 activities, about 25-30 were collaborations, co-sponsorships, and outreach with other groups.

In June, we can look forward to several collaborations. On June 3, we are partnering with PLAN-Boulder County and New Era Colorado on a screening of the film “RBG”, about the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We have other collaborations on June 4 (Fix-It film), June 5 (Movie Night at Elevations Credit Union), June 5 (Forum for District Attorney candidates), June 9 (Immigrants from Central America), June 28 (sponsorship with MOTUS Theater’s Boulder premiere of their Law Enforcement version of “Do You Know Who I Am?”). In addition, we will be participating in 4 voter registration drives during the month. Busy month! I look forward to seeing you at one of these activities, or at our Post-Convention Coffee on July 7.



**Democracy is not a spectator sport.  
Remember to vote in the  
Primary Election on Tuesday, June 26!**

## Member Announcements

### Ride Sharing

One of our LWVBC members in Longmont requests car rides to get to League meetings. If you live or work in Longmont and might be able to help, contact Ruth Stemler at [rjstemler@gmail.com](mailto:rjstemler@gmail.com) and she will put you in touch with the member. Thanks!



### Safeway Grocery Cards

A problem has developed with Safeway grocery cards. We have new ones with the image of an apple or a tomato with a heart in it. Some people have tried to use their old cards, only to discover there is a zero balance. The system was hacked, which is why Safeway has issued new cards. You can recover your balance through their customer service desk or through an internet system. The Fund Development team can help you if you need it. Please use up your balance if you have an old card, and then buy a new one from us. For more information, contact Louisa Young at 303-444-6429, or Lois Linsky at 303-499-2689.



### Member Name Badges

Tired of those pesky peel-and-stick name labels at League meetings? Yet, you want people to remember your name? LWVBC can offer snazzy custom-made name badges for members who want to place an order. The cost of the badge, would be \$10 each if we have an order of 20 badges or more. If you are interested, contact Mandy Nuku at [lwvbouldercounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbouldercounty@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Voter Registration Drives

Stop by and say "Hi" at the LWVBC voter registration and information booths at these locations in June:

- Boulder Farmers Market - June 2*
- Longmont Farmers Market - June 9*
- Lafayette Farmers Market - June 14*
- Latino Festival City Park, Boulder - June 24*

To volunteer at our at a booth this summer – it's fun! – [sign up on our website](#).



## **Hunger & Democracy Series – Lessons Learned**

*by Liz Black, member of Social Policy Team*

The Social Policy Team, over a seven-month period, has held three public showings of the 2013 film “A Place at the Table.” Each time a week later there was a panel discussion on hunger, with audience participation. Events occurred in the cities of Boulder, Longmont and Lafayette, with opportunities to attend on weeknights as well as weekends.



Our events gave participants greater awareness of and understanding of citizen action and government policies that can alleviate hunger and food insecurity. The ripple effect will amplify our work, as the film DVD has already been loaned out to two people who asked to show it to others. What have we learned? Hunger is not a topic which draws capacity crowds. Although the national League wisely recommends we focus our efforts where there is strong community interest, Leagues can also bring to the forefront seldom talked about issues which merit attention. Mental Health is an example of an issue now more openly discussed than in the past, and I am proud of LWVCO for its part in causing this shift.

We see the signs “Hunger Hurts the Whole Community.” We buy extra cereal or canned tuna to donate to Community Food Share (CFS), which distributes an admirable 10 million pounds annually. Perhaps we write a check, knowing that CFS can stretch a dollar further than we can. But charity is not the only answer. While we know poverty often leads to hunger, we learned there are multiple ways to think about and take action on this issue.

Local and regional changes can make a difference. Organizations including Boulder Food Rescue and EFAA benefit greatly from the Sugary Drinks Tax (2 cents per ounce) and have received thousands of dollars. County agricultural policy impacts landowner’s willingness to grow food crops and determines what is allowed by tenants on county open space. Cities make laws governing ability of residents to keep bee hives or raise poultry.

One highly effective way to relieve hunger is living wage. Minimum wage workers in expensive Boulder County have little for food after paying rent, utilities and transportation costs. Employees working full time or longer hours do not earn a living wage for themselves let alone their dependents. Hunger affects college students and retirees, not only the families of low wage workers. Lower grades, longer recovery times after injuries, and stunted development of children are just a few of the side effects of hunger. Significantly, hungry and overworked people don’t have the energy to help make democracy work.

How about nutrition? Chips and soda pop are available in every convenience store. Harder to find are bananas, carrots or milk. In Longmont, Growing Gardens and the YMCA responded to the “food desert/ food apartheid” problem with a program where children discover the good tastes of fresh spinach and tomatoes. Farmers Markets and Double Up Food Bucks give up to \$20 in produce to visitors purchasing with SNAP (“food stamp”) dollars.

*Continued on page 8*

## Annual Meeting Snapshots

Thanks to everyone who participated in the LWVBC Annual Meeting, held on May 12 at Nissi's in Lafayette. Inspiring speakers, motivating meeting topics and amazing League members made for a great event.

We welcomed special guests Erika Blum and Victor Galvan from our partner group Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, who joined League members Susan Saunders, Shiquita Yarbrough and Peggy Leech for an engaging discussion on how the two groups can work together to support the rights of immigrants in our community, and engage voters of all ages on immigrant rights and other critical democracy issues.



Continuing recognition of our external partnerships, LWVBC presented two awards:

- Community Partner Award to Elvira Ramos, Boulder Community Foundation
- Public Official Award to Stan Garnett, former Boulder County District Attorney



Photos L to R: Erika Blum from CIRC speaks as part of the “fishbowl” presentation; Peggy Leech and Stan Garnett; Elvira Ramos and Shiquita Yarbrough

**Business Meeting Summary.** Peggy Leech delivered her **President’s Report**, highlighting our 2017-18 internal accomplishments including further development of our interactive website for more efficient operations, improving communication between issue team leaders and Board members, highly successful fundraising initiatives, advancing our strategic planning process, and

developing closer collaboration with local partner groups. She also highlighted the elements of our local, state and national Making Democracy Work for All. We have a lot to celebrate!

Pat Long presented the **Treasurer's Report**, including a current financial statement and proposed budget for 2018-19, which passed with a vote of members. Mary Ann Wilner proposed the **Program Report**, which calls for a continuation of current programs with no new studies.

The following slate of Board officers was proposed by our **Nominating Committee** (Carolyn Elliott, Chair, Hugh Haskell, Marion Read, Rionda Osman and Susan Saunders, with Ruth Stemler and Peggy Leech serving as Ex Officio members) and passed by unanimous vote:

- President: Peggy Leech
- Treasurer: Pat Long
- Communications Director: Elizabeth Crowe
- Membership Director: Ruth Stemler
- Governance/Leadership Director: Caroline Himes
- Youth Engagement Director: Shiquita Yarbrough
- Events Director: Kay Palmer Marsh

We also recognized the following additional leadership positions, for the Board of Directors and other off-Board positions:

Board of Directors

- Secretary, Annie Lessem
- Action and Advocacy Director, Mary Ann Wilner
- Fund Development Director, Louisa Young
- Voter Services Director, Susan Saunders

The off-board positions were:

- |                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| ○ Assistant Treasurer             | Dave Stemler      |
| ○ Voter Editor                    | Jennifer Bales    |
| ○ Webmaster                       | Deborah Hayes     |
| ○ Assistant Webmaster             | Rionda Osman      |
| ○ Facebook                        | Mandy Nuku        |
| ○ Emailing                        | Laura Coates      |
| ○ Community Calendar              | Debbe Weidler     |
| ○ KGNU                            | Jeannette Hillery |
| ○ Membership Team                 | Debby Vink        |
|                                   | Judy White        |
|                                   | Cindy Outlaw      |
|                                   | Marion Read       |
| ○ Educational Events              | Marion Read       |
| ○ Technical Assistance for Events | Mandy Nuku        |
|                                   | Laura Coates      |



- Fund Development Assistance Lois Linsky
- Grocery Cards Lynn Wegley
- Donations and Acknowledgements Judy White
- Major Gifts Anne Bryan
- Fraser Team Kay Forsythe, Mickey Greenberg, Marky Lloyd
- Candidate Forums **open/recruiting**
- Voter Registration Drives Jeanine Pow

Then came the **League Member Recognition** awards. The following League members were honored for outstanding work in 2017-18:

- Board of Directors Member of the Year Louisa Young
- Emerging Leaders of the Year Pat Long and Elizabeth Crowe
- Member of the Year Diana Haskell
- Issue Team Leaders of the Year Denice Walker and Annie Lessem
- Team Members of the Year Deborah Hayes and Debby Vink

**Boulder County  
District Attorney  
Candidate Forum**

Tuesday, June 5, 2018,  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Unitarian Universalist  
5001 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Boulder, CO 80303



Is TPS the next DACA? Can it be saved through community action?

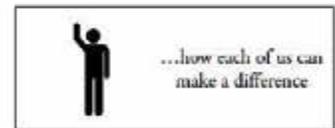
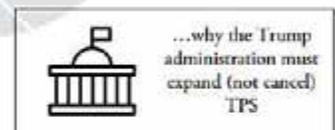
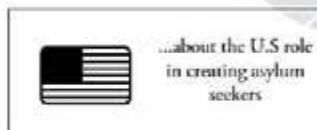
JOIN US for a bilingual public forum:

**“Immigrants From Central America”**

Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

3:00pm-5:00pm  
Boulder Public Library Canyon Theater  
1001 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, CO 80302

TOGETHER, we will learn...



**Presenters include:**

Gustavo Reyna, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Lafayette - Filip Sokol, RMPJC  
Violeta Chapin, Assoc. Clinical Professor of Law, CU Boulder  
Representatives from the Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County

**Note: This event is not appropriate for children. Limited childcare is available**

Sponsored by Immigrant Legal Center Of Boulder County, The Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center, The Latino Chamber Of Commerce & The League Of Women Voters Of Boulder County.  
\*Funding assistance provided by The City of Boulder Human Relations Commission



***Hunger and Democracy, continued from page 4***

In the 1970s, the federal government added a school breakfast component to the school lunch program. A quarter of local schoolchildren are eligible for free or reduced-cost meals. BVSD's School Food Project encourages students to develop healthy eating habits and enjoy dishes incorporating locally sourced vegetables.

In the early 80's, food stamps practically eliminated hunger. Then the trend reversed. Safety nets are underfunded while military spending grows, subsidies to big agribusiness remain in place and tax rates are cut. In spite of local agencies and big-hearted volunteers, hunger and food insecurity persist. Remedies require advocacy on a broad spectrum of federal policy issues, e.g., the Farm Bill, the tax code (charitable deductions), minimum wage, housing, public transportation and more.

Just published this spring, the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger lists on its back cover a dozen things that Coloradans can do to make things different for the one in ten in our state who are hungry today. Go to [endhungerco.org](http://endhungerco.org) to read the blueprint and [gapmap.org](http://gapmap.org) for data on the prevalence of hunger in Boulder County.

The author of the blueprint, Hunger & Democracy panelist Jennifer Banyan, tells us we collectively can end hunger. She points out that not long ago, Colorado was in nearly last place among states ranked according to the percentage of children with health insurance coverage. Now our state's Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) is a model for high enrollment of eligible individuals.

Talking about hunger is a great first step to achieving the goal of ending it here and soon. Let's keep the conversation going both within our league and beyond it. The social policy team members are currently reaching out, asking different bodies to endorse the Blueprint. The team welcomes your suggestions of other actions we can take as we advocate for ending hunger.

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PO Box 21274  
Boulder, CO 80308