



Colorado Voter

August 2009, Volume 23, Number 1

League of Women Voters of Colorado

LWVCO League Day

Saturday, September 26, 2009

Registration 8:30 a.m., Conference 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Colorado Room, Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd.

The hotel is located just north of the intersection of

South Colorado Boulevard and Cherry Creek Drive North.

Hotel sleeping rooms available to Leaguers for \$99.00 plus tax.

Call 888-388-6129 for reservations.

Registration Fee \$32.00 (The registration fee covers meeting room, lunch, refreshments (coffee, rolls, fruit) before the conference, and conference materials.)

Speakers

Allison Eid, Colorado State Supreme Court Justice

Judicial Issues and Diversity in the Judicial System

Ken Gordon, former Colorado State Senate Majority Leader

Democracy: People versus Money

Alicia Archibald, Pueblo Sustainability Planner

Real Community—Real Sustainability

Irene Aguilar, M.D., President of Healthcare for all Colorado

Understanding Colorado Healthcare Financing and Reform.

Colorado League Day Registration Form - Deadline Friday, September 18, 2009

Registration Fee \$32.00 (No refunds after September 18)

Three choices for lunch: **(1)** 1/2 Classic Turkey Wrap with chips, fruit, cookie **(2)** 1/2 Vegetarian Wrap with chips, fruit, cookie, **(3)** A Naked (no wrap or dressing) Classic Turkey Wrap and fruit. Please circle the number of your choice that follows your name. Please contact the League office for diet restrictions.

Name _____ Lunch choice: 1 or 2 or 3

(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the name tag.)

Name of League _____

Pay by check (made payable to LWVCO) Visa Mastercard **Amount \$32.00**

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ LWVCO Fax # 303.837.9917

Mail to: LWV of COLORADO, 1410 GRANT ST STE B204, DENVER CO 80203-1855

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Colorado Voter

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From the President

Remember the Health Care Resolution
adopted at LWVCO Convention?

At the League of Women Voters of Colorado Convention your delegates passed a resolution which urged LWVUS to take immediate action based on our health care position. Well, guess what? The LWVUS Lobby Corp recently visited Representatives Markey, Salazar, Perlmutter, and DeGette, who is taking the lead for the CO delegation.

Now, it is our turn to contact our representatives and senators about how critical it is to undertake an intellectually-honest approach to policy debate in order to shape a health care system that will provide a basic level of quality health care, available to all U.S. residents at an affordable cost. Health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure. (Visit www.lwv.org to find more information about our health care position, which is in the issues section under social policies.)

OK, then we need to use both arms of the League (education and advocacy) to get out in our communities to educate and spread the word that we need to reform a fragmented health care system where Americans are dying prematurely, costs for individuals and businesses are unsustainable, and the country's economy is suffering under the weight of escalating health care costs. **The window of opportunity is open for significant reform.**

The issue is complicated and there are many misconceptions about what a universal health care system would, or would not, do. There is a great deal of fear and mistrust being spread by opponents of health care reform. We have our work cut out for us when a citizen loudly complains, "I don't want the government touching my Medicare" or when a lawmaker refers to a doctor's end-of-life counselling as "death care" or "a treacherous path toward government-encouraged euthanasia."

Now that Congress has missed the chance to pass health care reform before the summer recess, the reform battle could be won or lost in lawmakers' home districts. Attend and speak out at the town-hall meetings and other events in your area. **Health Care is not a partisan issue, but it is very political...this is not the time for Leaguers to shrink from urging Congress to work toward a universal health care system!**

Thanks for EDUCATING and ADVOCATING!

Patty Cordova

P.S. To reach the U.S. Capitol switchboard call 1-800-828-0498

Letter to Governor Ritter dated June 8, 2009

by Patricia Cordova, LWVCO President

Dear Governor Ritter,

The League of Women Voters of Colorado congratulates you on your firm support of Green Energy. Your emphasis on wind, solar, biofuels, and conservation will encourage Coloradans to keep renewable energy as a goal for now and the future. The LWVCO has positions which are in agreement with many of your energy policies. We support:

- Reduction of energy growth rates;
- The use of a variety of energy sources with an emphasis on conserving energy and energy-efficient technologies;
- A predominant reliance on renewable sources; and
- Action by the appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation.

The League is concerned with the increase in the amount of CO2 pollution, the reduction of the need for renewable energy, and the decrease in the impetus for energy conservation with the opening of the Comanche 3 coal plant in Pueblo. We are aware that the decision to build this coal plant was made before you were elected governor, but we hope that there will not be another new plant in the foreseeable future. In fact, the League of Women Voters of the United States has called for a 10-year moratorium on building new coal-fired electric power plants. Thank you for fighting for a Colorado that will lead the nation in its search for a better tomorrow.

Reports Required by Secretary of State

by Sandy Eid, Executive Director

INCORPORATION

Any entity incorporated in Colorado is required to file an Annual Report with the Business Division of the Colorado Secretary of State. [Each entity receives an annual post-card to file the report and the corporation then files online.]

In addition to LWVCO and LWVCOEF, the following incorporated local Leagues are currently in "Good Standing" with the Secretary of State's office: Adams County, Arapahoe County, Boulder County, Denver, Greeley/Weld County, Jefferson County, La Plata County, Larimer County, Pikes Peak Region, Pueblo, and Sterling. To check status, go to www.sos.state.co.us, click Business Center.

CHARITABLE SOLICITATION

Any nonprofit that solicits charitable donations from the public [501(c)(3)] is required by law (Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act) to renew its registration and update its financial information annually in the Licensing Division of the Colorado Secretary of State. If a local League deposits Ed Fund money with the LWVCO Education Fund, that money is included in **our reports**. If a local League collects money for Ed Fund purposes but does not deposit it with LWVCOEF, the local League is responsible for reporting those donations to the Secretary of State. To verify LWVCOEF status: www.sos.state.co.us, click Licensing Center, Charities & Fundraisers Registration, Search Charities Database. Questions? Contact Sandy Eid, 303.863.0437, or by email: info@lwvcolorado.org

LWVCO Board Announcements

(1) New office hours at the LWV of Colorado office are now Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. through the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The office will be closed on Fridays. **(2) The League will obtain a PayPal account** in order to offer MALs the opportunity to pay their state League membership dues. Contributions to the League can also be made through the LWVCO website. The "pay now" and "donation" button will be added to the membership form and contribution web pages. **(3) LWVCO is looking for information on charter schools** from local Leagues that have studied this issue. Contact Jeannette Hillary, Legislative chair, as issues on charter schools appear in education bills that come before the Colorado State Legislature. **(4) Impact on Issues 2008-2010**, the program/positions of the national League, is now available on the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org). The printed booklet can be purchased from LWVUS. **(5) The League has joined numerous organizations in partnering with the 2010 Census Count.** See page 6 for details.

Sustainability Study

by Alice Ramsey, 1st Vice-President, Program

The Sustainability study committee has been hard at work collecting information on all the issues that sustainability touches. These include recycling, green manufacturing (you wouldn't believe what entrepreneurs can do with "trash"), agriculture, alternative energy, and business. Many local Leagues are doing local mini-studies on what kind of sustainability activity is going on in their communities. The results of this research may be used for unit discussions this fall and will be shared with other Leagues in the state.

The LWVCO study is **to define the meaning of sustainability** for use in action and lobbying by the LWVCO and local Leagues on current state positions. We will not be changing any positions. Positions will be examined to see if they either contain the word sustainability or imply sustainability. The **goal of this study** is to highlight sustainability for use in action on legislation at local and state levels.

Sustainability is a concept inherent in League positions. LWV of California did a study on sustainability. To quote from their material: "With respect to government, positions support policies that promote equity, flexibility, and responsibility so that democratic government is encouraged and protected" (i.e. political sustainability).

League's natural resources positions support the protection and wise management "in the public interest" to "promote an environment beneficial to life" (i.e. environmental sustainability). Social policy positions promote the equity, justice, education and nurturing essential to sustaining society (i.e. social sustainability). We must understand that sustainability is intertwined in all our actions. Social, governmental, and natural resource positions all relate to one another.

If you are interested in joining our committee please contact Alice Ramsey by phone: 303-841-7839, or email: alice@ramsisle.com. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 10, in Estes Park at 10:30 a.m.

Clean Campaigns Colorado Recap 2009

by Alice Ramsey, 1st Vice-President, Program

In June I received a report from Jim Hoffmeister of Clean Campaigns Colorado (CCC). It summarized activities over the past year or more in public campaign financing.

Several local Colorado Leagues and other groups reviewed the CCC proposal and had some comments about the makeup and control of the CCC Commission — whether it should be statutory or constitutional, how funding for public campaigns should be raised, and how to deal with excess funds.

Several states with public funding reported results. Maine (begun 2000) had almost 90% of candidates using public funds, a decrease in private funding, and an increase in women and first time candidates. However, there was a dramatic increase in PAC funds and the state was struggling to maintain sufficient public funding. In Connecticut (2005)

75% of candidates used public funding in its first such election cycle although the Green Party sued because its candidates didn't receive comparable funding to the Democrats and Republicans. Arizona (1998) increased to 50% of candidates using public funding but a suit from the Goldwater Institute claims First Amendment infringement. And there are claims of irregularities.

Presently there seems little interest in Colorado on this issue as budgetary, TABOR, and health care concerns have come to the forefront. Still, it seems that public campaign financing best reflects the will of the people in legislative decision making. The question now is, "Where does CCC go from here?"

To receive a copy of the two page report, contact me by phone 303-841-7839 or e-mail: alice@ramsisle.com

Leadership Retreat 2009 Report

by Lineah Davey, 3rd VP, Member Services

Cheryl Graeve, staff member of LWVUS, joined 43 League members from 13 local Leagues to discuss increasing the visibility and impact of the League of Women Voters in their communities. From holding voter forums to discussing issues important to the community, League boards were encouraged to always tell their stories to the community. Each League event is an opportunity to ask people to join the League.

Cheryl, along with several state board presenters, held sessions on how to increase a diverse membership, set policies, and build League presence through issues programs and voter education. Participants asked many questions about how to fill their roles on their local boards. In addition to board training information, participants took home a CD from LWVUS on League Basics, tools to use with their local boards.

Local League members shared the work they had done in their local communities throughout the year. All Leagues held candidate and issues forums. Leagues held an impressive array of programs, from Great Decisions discussions, to programs on water, health care, public housing, recycling, sustainability, judicial selection and evaluation, and environmental issues. Leagues raised money by selling grocery store coupons, flowers, holding a State of the City dinner and by asking for donations.

The 2010 Leadership Retreat will be June 25-26. Local boards may send as many representatives as they wish. Colorado's Leadership Retreat is one of only a few training sessions for board members in the country.

Local League Successes

by Lineah Davey, 3rd VP, Member Services

We do not have space to list all the success projects reported by each League at the Leadership Retreat. Therefore we list the titles of two unique projects from each local League.

Arapahoe County—Partner with library,
Program meetings - visibility
Boulder County—Teen Mom Task Force in school district, Immigrants turn controversy into positive
Chaffee County — Moderator training for non-profits,
Water controversy with Nestle
Denver — State of the City Dinner,
Women to Watch
Estes Park — Rodeo parade with suffragists,
Wilderness designation for Rocky Mountain Park
Grand Junction —Sustainability with Mesa State,
Partner with Alpine Bank, World Environment Day
Greeley/Weld—Network/co-sponsor Health Care for All Colorado, Network with chamber, churches
Jefferson County—Community forums,
Homelessness Study
LaPlata County—Merit Selection of Judges, Conference: Building a Safer, Comprehensive World
Larimer County—Instant Run-off Study,
Cross Currents
Montezuma County—Oppose Desert Rock,
Environmental committee to monitor mercury,
Montrose—Affirmative Action Grant, Newsletter to members and local government agencies
Pikes Peak Region—Making Democracy Work Awards, Stand Alone Program on Economics

Business Community Answered Call

by Cath Perrone, LWV of Jefferson County

The following businesses and organizations donated items for the LWVCO Delegate Goodie Bags, distributed at the LWVCO Convention in Golden, Colorado. If you use their services, please thank them for their support. We also thank the League of Women Voters of Jefferson County Sustainability Committee, and Leaguers Jo Rock and Gwen Lipkie for their donations.

Arvada Hearing Center, Apex Dermatology (Littleton), Colorado Local Sustainability
Colorado Talking Book Library, Dillard's, Exempla Medical,
Golden Chamber of Commerce, King Soopers,
Lutheran Hospital Med Center, Macy's, Mary Kay Cosmetics
Maverick Press, Safeway, Sunflower Market (Southwest)
Udi's Handcrafted Foods, Vectra Bank (South Perce Street),
Wells Fargo Bank (Southeast branch), Westwood Travel Center

LWV of Estes Park - Suffragettes in July Rodeo Parade

Photos by Irene Little, LWV of Estes Park



Participants in the July 2009 Estes Park Parade. All enjoyed a lunch at Lynn Young's home after the parade. From left to right, standing, Irene Little, Pat Volker (blue hat), Pat Laitala, Ginny (Virginia) Thompson, Diane Burkepille, Patty Cordova (LWVCO president), Sally Broste, Robert Peters, Bobbie Heisterkamp, Dorothy Gibbs, and Betty Dutton. Seated, Margaret Clark, Linda Mahan, Gerry Cummins, and Lynn Young.



Estes Park Leaguers Lynn Young (on the right) and Ginny (Virginia) Thompson, carry the banner. Behind the banner (left to right) are Sally Broste (Larimer), Bobbie Heisterkamp (hidden by sign), Gerry Cummins, and Linda Mahan.



The first recycler; the manure spreader. Seated is Jean Walker; standing is Mike Bilos.



Jeannette Hillary (Boulder County) with her horse trying to follow the Estes Park League float.

Census Count 2010

by Marge Fisch

The LWVUS has joined numerous organizations in partnering with the 2010 Census Count. Did you know that ...

- Every person counted in Colorado impacts ten years of funding, representation and allocation of public services and infrastructure.
- For every 100 persons not counted, Colorado could lose \$1.2 million in federal funds for programs, i.e. Medicaid, social services block grant and vocational education.
- Census numbers redraw boundaries for congressional districts and State and House districts.

- The Census starts in February 2010 counting "group quarters" such as senior homes, student dorms and prison populations.
- Census forms go into the mail to 145 million households in late March. Households not returning a form will receive home visits.
- Everyone gets the short form which consists of ten questions.

Later this fall, we should have the materials for local Leagues to use in their communities. The League will have a pivotal role in getting an accurate count for Colorado. There are job openings in various capacities. Information is available at www.nonprofits.org.

Beginning with the August issue of the *Colorado Voter*, members may choose to receive the newsletter electronically or by mail, as you now receive it. The electronic version will be sent as a PDF file. Please indicate by which method you wish to receive the next issue. If you wish to have it sent to you electronically, please print your e-mail address. Please return this form to the LWVCO office prior to October 1, 2009 by fax (303.837.9917), e-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org, or by mail: LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver CO 80203-1855

Name _____ LWV of _____ Please send by e-mail:

Address _____ Please send by regular mail:

E-mail address _____

News from LWVUS

Advocacy

Following news items from Leaders Update published July 16, 23, and August 6, 2009. Letters and other information are published on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org

The LWVUS Lobby Corps is lobbying members of the House of Representatives and asking them to **support the newly introduced America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009**. (Letter posted on the LWVUS website.) Health Care Reform Action Tool Kit to assist local Leagues to take action on federal health care reform legislation is available. (see LWVUS website)

Health Care Action Alert! Your Senators and Representatives need to hear from you during the August recess. Take action today! Urge your members of Congress to support strong health care reform legislation that includes a quality, affordable public insurance plan.

The League filed an *amicus* brief with the Supreme Court in a case concerning the role of corporate wealth in candidate elections. The week of August 6, NPR Digital News interviewed LWVUS President Mary Wilson about the case and the League's brief.

The LWV of Michigan partnered with several other organizations, such as Common Cause Michigan and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, to submit their support for the Michigan Supreme Court to adopt **new procedures for the disqualification of judges**. The League submitted a letter to the Michigan Supreme Court on July 30, 2009. The LWV of Wisconsin petitioned the Wisconsin State Supreme Court for **new recusal procedures** in light of the United States Supreme Court decision on *Caperton v. Massey*.

Announcements

Three projects received funding for the League's Global Democracy Program. One of those projects received funding from the Open World Leadership Center for groups from Georgia and Azerbaijan to be hosted by the **Leagues of Boulder County, Colorado** and Baltimore County, Maryland.

[Diana Barney, member of the LWV of Boulder County and former board secretary, is the leader of this project. She writes that the **purpose of the visit** will be for the Azerbaijan group to learn about responsive government. This group is made up of seven people, including one facilitator and one translator. Every member of the **delegation has been elected to Azerbaijan's Parliament**, which is their one federal legislative body, correlating with our Congress. This group will arrive November 8 and stay until the 15th. For information about this project, contact Diana by e-mail: dkbarney@hotmail.com.]

LWVUS recognized a new (or renewed) **LWV of Stamford, Connecticut**.

August 26 marks the **89th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment**.

The Open Society Institute is providing support of "**Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: The Quest for a Diverse Judiciary**," beginning September 1, 2009. The two-year project will work to raise awareness of the importance for fair and impartial courts to reflect the diversity of the population they represent. The work will be carried out in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (OK, KS, NM, CO, WY, and UT. The first year's work will be carried out only in Kansas, where the project kicks off in Topeka on October 17, 2009.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
1410 GRANT ST STE B204
DENVER CO 80203-1855

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**Interested in the
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___ Please send information about
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of Women Voters. Annual dues
are \$50. Please make your check
payable to LWVCO.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Mail to:
LWVCO
1410 Grant Street Suite B204
Denver, Colorado 80203-1855

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters,
a nonpartisan political organiza-
tion, promotes informed and
active participation in govern-
ment and influences public policy
through education and advocacy.

Join the League

Any person of voting age may
join the League of Women Voters
(LWV). For information or to
find the local League nearest you,
contact the LWV of Colorado.

Phone: 303.863.0437
Fax: 303.837.9917
E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org
Website: www.lwvcolorado.org

CALENDAR

2009

- Sept. 7 Labor Day, Office Closed
- Sept. 26 League Day
Holiday Inn Select, Denver**
- October 7 LWVCO Board Meeting
- Nov. 3 Election Day
- Nov. 5 LWVCO Voter Deadline
- Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
Office Closed
- Dec. 2 LWVCO Board Meeting
- Dec. 4 Lobbyist Training
- Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Winter Holiday
Office Closed

2010

- Jan. 15 Legislative Action Committee
- Jan. 25 Legislative Conference**