

Ann,

Ann, we hosted the League of Women Voters of Colorado Council at the Strater this past weekend May 16-17. Twenty-two delegates, 5 observers and 8 delegates from state board, our Legislative lobbyist and our state office manager journeyed to Durango from as far away as Fort Collins and Greeley.

Highlights: Michelle Olguin, vice-chairman of the Southern Ute Tribal Council delivering the official welcome; U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado Troy Eid, keynote speaker on native American issues; Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States 1998-2002.

Ms. Jefferson-Jenkins, LWVCO representative to Colorado Unity, a coalition organized to fight Amendment 46, a proposed constitutional change which would eliminate most affirmative action programs in CO, presented background information on the status of minorities in CO. Delegates also received a summary of the 2008 Legislative Session and information on status of referred and initiated ballot proposals for the November ballot.

Attorney Eid presented arguments in support of a second Federal court to be located in southwest Colorado and explained his successful efforts to cross-train and deputize tribal, county and city law enforcement personnel in our area.

Jodi Foran, president of the LWV of Montezuma County, received an award on behalf of her LWV for becoming a full-fledged League of Women Voters, one of nearly 850 across the country.

The normal Council business of election of officers and directors and budget was conducted. Marilyn Brown, spokesperson of LWV of La Plata County, was elected to a 2-year term of secretary to the state board.

Marilyn Brown
259-3593

Photos attached:

Michelle Olguin, vice-chair, S. Ute Tribe, delivering the welcome
Jodi Foran, Ellen Park (immediate past president of La Plata LWV) and Marilyn Brown, at dinner table.

Jodi Foran, receiving award from state president Marjory Beal
Carolyn Jefferson-Jackson, former national president, addressing Council
U.S. Attorney for CO Troy Eid addressing diners

(All photos by LWV member Jill Patton)